



November 6, 2018

Honorable Governor Walker
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly requests your support for our local medical facility, the Petersburg Medical Center (PMC), to be designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) through the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Obtaining this designation for PMC may offer eligibility to funding opportunities and professional loan repayment programs through HRSA and/or the State of Alaska.

Currently, the HRSA scoring calculation for PMC does not qualify for HPSA designation due to the ratio of primary care providers compared to Petersburg's population. However, a special exception through the State of Alaska Primary Care Office is possible if a recommendation is put forth by local officials and the chief executive or Governor of the state that outline special barriers to care. The geographical isolation of living on a small island in Southeast Alaska coupled with a substantial increase in seasonal employment due to the fishing industry count against the traditional HPSA scoring system. In addition, our healthcare providers need to cover the critical access hospital emergency room and inpatient units 24/7 as well as the primary care clinic Monday through Saturday.

A written recommendation from you, Governor Walker, to the State Primary Care Office to approve PMC's application for a Health Professional Shortage Area designation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

cc: Philip Hofstetter, PMC CEO
Senator Bert Stedman
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins