ASHNHA

ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

February 2, 2016

Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is writing this letter in support of SB23: An Act relating to opioid overdose drugs and immunity for prescribing, providing and administering. We are very concerned opioid abuse in Alaska and the increase in deaths from heroin overdose. We believe this bill would make lifesaving opioid overdose medications more accessible to Alaskans in need.

Hospitals are already able to provide opioid overdose drugs to patients at risk, but this law would allow and support health providers in making these medications more available to family and friends of people at risk. We would also support an amendment to allow pharmacists to prescribe and train people in the use and administration of overdose drugs along with the other health providers already included in the bill.

We hope this legislation will also open the dialogue on opioid abuse in Alaska and allow us to consider other opportunities to impact this serious problem. ASHNHA members are willing to work with others to help impact opioid abuse in Alaska.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support this legislation moving forward.

Sincerely,

Becky Hultberg
President/CEO

ANCHORAGE 5049 W 36th Ave., Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99503 tel 907.563.4424 JUNEAU 435 Main St., Juneau, AK 99801 tel 907.586.3748
ashnha.com