

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Representatives Zack Fields and Carolyn Hall
Alaska State Legislature
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Support for HB 195 – Pharmacist Patient Care Services

Dear Co-Chairs, Representative Fields and Hall, and Members of the Committee,

I write to express **strong support** for **House Bill 195**, legislation that expands pharmacist-provided patient care services, strengthens collaborative practice agreements, and enhances licensure reciprocity to help address Alaska's healthcare workforce needs.

As pharmacists, we are among the most accessible healthcare professionals in the state and are uniquely positioned to improve timely access to care—particularly in rural and underserved communities where provider shortages persist. HB 195 authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and administer medications within the scope of their education, training, and experience, enabling patients to receive safe and effective treatment without unnecessary delays.

This legislation represents a practical and patient-centered approach to maximizing Alaska's existing healthcare workforce. There are simply not enough providers to meet current demand, and empowering pharmacists to practice at the top of their license is a commonsense step toward improving access while maintaining high standards of care.

Importantly, the bill preserves strong clinical safeguards by requiring pharmacists to recognize the limits of their training and consult with or refer patients to other practitioners when appropriate.

These provisions reinforce the collaborative nature of modern healthcare and support coordinated, team-based care.

Across Alaska, pharmacists already play a critical role in medication management, disease prevention, and chronic disease support. HB 195 builds upon this foundation and aligns with national best practices that leverage pharmacists' expertise to improve outcomes, enhance patient safety, and reduce strain on the broader healthcare system.

For these reasons, I **respectfully urge your support of HB 195**. Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to improving healthcare access for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Brittany L. Keener, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, FAKPhA
President, Alaska Pharmacy Association
ANTHC Ambulatory Pharmacy Manager