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February 5, 2016

Senator Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Capitol Building
Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA), I am writing in support of the Alaska Senate Bill 23. I would like to personally thank you for introducing this piece of legislation and for being an advocate for such an important public health issue. As you know, opioid abuse is a national epidemic and legislation such as the bill that you introduced is an important step in the right direction to saving the lives of those afflicted with opioid abuse and addiction issues.

AKPhA represents over 200 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the State of Alaska. Our mission is to preserve, promote, and lead the profession of pharmacy in Alaska. Alaska SB 23, as amended, strongly aligns with our mission as it will allow for pharmacists to prescribe naloxone, thus increasing the public's access to a life-saving medication. Pharmacists in all parts of our state participate as key players in reversing the opioid overdose death epidemic and this bill will provide pharmacists some of the tools necessary to that end.

Again, we appreciate your efforts and leadership on this critical issue. Should there be anything that I or the Alaska Pharmacists Association can do to help ensure passage of this legislation, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dan Nelson, PharmD.
President
Alaska Pharmacists Association

Cc: Sarah Evans (sarah.evans@akleg.gov)

E-mail: akpharmcy@alaska.net

203 W. 15th Ave., Suite 100 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 563-8880 • (907) 563-7880