



Alaska Pharmacists Association

Board of Directors

Tara Ruffner
President
Soldotna

Della Cutchins
President Elect
Anchorage

Dan Nelson
Past President
Fairbanks

Theresa Castellanos
Co-Treasurer
Anchorage

Piper Machamer
Co-Treasurer
Anchorage

Kathryn Sawyer
Nome

Adele Garrison
Juneau

Robert Gruszynski
Chugiak

Ashley Schaber
Anchorage

Brittany Karns
Fairbanks

Michelle Locke
Chugiak

Michelle Vaughn
Juneau

Irene Williams
Fairbanks

February 23, 2016

Senator Berta Gardner
Alaska State Capitol Building
Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Gardner:

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA), I am writing in support of SB 156. I would like to personally thank you for introducing this piece of legislation, as having access to affordable contraception is very important in our state. The only caveat we would make is the section requiring a 90 day first fill for oral contraceptives. We see this requirement potentially creating multiple insurance issues that could be avoided by simply leaving this section out of the final bill. I believe this section has already been removed from the companion bill in the House.

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 156 strongly aligns with our mission to provide the best possible care to all of our patients, and to make needed medications, including contraceptives, readily available to these patients.

Again, we appreciate your efforts and leadership on this 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,

Tara Ruffner, Pharm D
President
Alaska Pharmacists Association

E-mail: akphrmcy@alaska.net

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