

February 17, 2017

Bob Urata MD
Valley Medical Care
1801 Salmon Creek Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol - Room 418
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Fax: 907-465-6597

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support of for House Bill 43 which would protect physicians and hospitals for treating terminally ill patients with experimental medications that have passed the first stage of approval from the FDA.

I personally have not had to use this, but feel if this was available it would allow me to likely pursue this more as I will know that there is protection from potential lawsuits should something go wrong causing unforeseen patient harm.

I hope you will find this bill favorable for your support. I urge passage by your committee.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Bob Urata MD
907-723-4144

Dixie A. Hood, LMFT
Juneau, Alaska

February 20, 2017

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: House Bill 43 – The Right to Try

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

This letter is in support of House Bill 43, the Right to Try: New Drugs for the Terminally Ill.

For 30 years as a licensed marriage and family therapist, substance abuse counselor and present member of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, I have provided mental health services and support to many individuals who were suffering from life-threatening diseases, as well as their families. Some were referred to Hospice and Home Care. When help and hope seemed unobtainable, several patients turned to suicide.

I have had HIV clients who were eligible to receive medical marijuana, but moved away from long-time friends and relatives because Alaska state law required administering physicians to be publicly identified. Their doctor believed that was professionally unethical and violated privacy laws. Therefore, they refused to provide marijuana as treatment for their illness. Protection of both patient and physician is critical when the patient's well-being, and even life, are at stake.

HB 43 would enable a patient who has provided "informed consent" acknowledging the potential risk of investigational medication to receive treatment of a drug which has successfully completed Phase 1 of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's drug review process. It would provide immunity from disciplinary action and liability of doctors and manufacturers who have been willing to make the investigational medication available to the patient.

This would enable a terminal patient the ability to access safe, but experimental drugs when their doctor has exhausted all the FDA-approved options.

This is a humanitarian issue, not a political one. I urge support of House Bill 43.

CC: Representative Jason Grenn

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 43

From: E. C. Krome [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 43

I have been a registered nurse since 1979. I fully support this bill and am incredibly thankful to you for introducing it. It is terrible to take hope away from those with a terminal illness.

E. C. Krome
3642 N. Sams Dr.
Wasilla, AK. 99654

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Representative JASON GRENN's legislative website (<http://akhouse.org/rep-grenn>)



P.O. Box 13458
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213.935.0553

Feb. 24, 2017
Re: Support for HB43

Dear members of the Alaska legislature,

The Tenth Amendment Center fully supports passage of HB43 enacting a “Right to Try” law in Alaska.

Sometimes the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly. For most of us, this merely presents an inconvenience, but for a patient suffering from a life-threatening illness, a few months could mean the difference between life and death.

The FDA approval process is meant to protect the public and ensure only safe and effective treatments find their way into the marketplace. But sometimes the nature of the process means delays in getting medicines into the hands of those who desperately need them. “Right to Try” laws create a bridge spanning a gap between federal regulations and the needs of terminally ill patients.

We’ve seen firsthand what “Right to Try” means for more than 70 cancer patients in Texas. Treatment ended after the FDA declined to extend a clinical trial.

“Essentially, my job was to go back to these patients and family members, and tell them that, ‘Sorry, I mean the FDA has told me not to continue in this treatment,’” Dr. Delpassand said.

But when the Texas Right to Try bill went into effect, he was able to resume treating his patients under the new state law.

“I can tell you that when I was talking to our patients, when I told them about the news, they were just so happy to hear this. This was such good news for them and gave them such a great hope to understand and know they can get their treatment.”

This type of legislation illustrates the beauty of federalism. People have recognized a glaring need and met it through legitimate state action.

So far, 33 states have enacted “Right to Try,” and several states will likely be added to the list this year.

We strongly urge you to vote yes on HB43.

Sincerely,

Michael Boldin, Tenth Amendment Center Founder and Executive Director
Mike Maharrey, Tenth Amendment Center National Communications Director



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567
Main: 907.269.8163
Fax: 907.269.8196

February 24, 2017

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Jason Grenn
State House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator Wielechowski and Representative Grenn:

The Alaska State Medical Board has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 19 and House Bill (HB) 43, which propose to provide immunity for, and prohibit disciplinary action of, physicians for prescribing, dispensing, or administering an experimental drug to terminally ill patients that have considered all other treatment options approved by the FDA and is ineligible or unable to participate in a current clinical trial.

During the previous legislative session, the Board had opposed similar bills; however, the previous position is not relevant to the current bills, as they are different. The Board noted that the previous bills allowed for use of drugs that may be in Phase 1 of testing, and the current bills are for drugs in Phases 2 or 3. The Board also noted that the two current bills are nearly identical, except that HB 43 includes provisions for the both use or non-use of these drugs.

The Board determined to take a neutral position on SB 19 because it does not include the "non-use" clause; the Board supports HB 43 as written.

Sincerely,

Grant Roderer, M.D.
Board President
Alaska State Medical Board

E-mail: medicalboard@alaska.gov

Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard.aspx>