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March 2, 2017

Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Gardner:

Thank you for introducing SB 53. The Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) appreciates your efforts and leadership on this issue. AKPhA represents over 250 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the State of Alaska. Our mission is to preserve, promote, and lead the profession of pharmacy in Alaska.

SB 53 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.

The bill will add Alaska to the 7 other states that already require insurers that cover prescription drugs to provide coverage of FDA-approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices; and to join states such as Illinois, Oregon, Vermont and California that allow women to get 12 months of birth control pills at one time. It will be important for women to understand appropriate storage methods for their contraception and we will work to ensure that they do.

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,

Della Cutchins, PharmD
President, Alaska Pharmacists Association
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