

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 242: An Act Relating to the Prescription of Opioids...

The purpose of this bill is to reduce addiction and overdose death from opioids prescribed by health care professionals, by improving the effectiveness of the State's controlled substance prescription database by requiring healthcare licensing boards to set prescription standards for their professions.

Alaska's controlled substance prescription database was created and placed under the responsibility of the Board of Pharmacy in 2008. The database was designed as a tool to help healthcare providers identify patients who were "doctor shopping" or deliberately obtaining prescriptions from multiple unknowing providers to feed addictions.

As opioid addiction has increased in Alaska and the nation so has our understanding of links between legal prescription, addiction and illegal use of controlled substances. Healthcare providers and policy makers are looking for ways to turn the tide of addiction and death. Strengthening the prescription database system is one positive step we can take.

HB 242 will improve the prescription practice of Alaska's many great healthcare providers and help identify and remove the small minority of prescribers who deliberately or negligently over prescribe controlled substances.

I encourage you to support this legislation and to reach out to my office with any questions and suggestions.