

## Alliana Salanguit

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**From:** Pakak Boerner  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** Alliana Salanguit  
**Subject:** FW: Written testimony shared during HB 145 public testimony

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**From:** Susan Wheeler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 8:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Nelson <Rep.David.Nelson@akleg.gov>; Rep. James Kaufman <Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ken McCarty <Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Written testimony shared during HB 145 public testimony

Good morning- I am grateful for the opportunity to have spoken to you all this morning. I am providing a written copy of my testimony to aid in incorporation to the written minutes.

Good morning. My name is Susan Wheeler, and I am a resident of Bethel. I am the pharmacy director at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. As part of the tribal health system in Alaska, I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be an integral part of the care team for our patients. The pharmacists here are already engaged in providing several of the services that would be impacted by changes proposed in HB 145. Our pharmacists are fully integrated with the providers, nurses, and other health care professionals who provide care. However, due to the lack of our ability to enroll pharmacists as billing providers, we are unable to receive compensation for the services provided by our pharmacists.

I would like to say thank you for recognizing how important the changes proposed in HB 145 are to our patients, our communities, and to the profession of pharmacy. Pharmacists, in most practice settings, are the most readily available health care professional, yet at the current time in Alaska, they are the only healthcare professionals not listed in the provider antidiscrimination statute. This means that the most readily available health care professionals are compensated minimally, if at all, for providing the same services that would otherwise be covered if provided by other health care professionals. While our profession is dedicated to serving our patients and improving their overall health and well being, the lack of compensation makes it difficult to provide the uncompensated services that we are so well prepared and eager to provide. This makes the services we could provide less readily available to patients, which for some may be a deterrent for some patients and prevent them from obtaining some of the basic medical services that a pharmacist could quickly, easily and competently provide.

So, this morning, I am asking for your support of this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time.

**Susan Wheeler, PharmD**  
*Pharmacy Director*  
**Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation**  
**Health Services**

[REDACTED], AK 99559  
[REDACTED]

April 14, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder  
District 27, Anchorage  
State Capital,  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**RE: HB 145 - Expand Pharmacist Authority**

Dear Representative Snyder,

**I write in unqualified support of passage of HB 145.**

This public policy is critically needed.

Public health is the basis of economic function and education of our students. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly underscored this fact.

**When businesses shut down, schools closed and citizens locked down...healthcare providers were on the job, meeting life needs of Alaskans. Pharmacists were vital members of the public health team. Pharmacists and their businesses stayed open.**

Physicians and nurses are rightly recognized as front-line workforce. But behind them stood **pharmacists, without whom medications could not have been provided.**

**In 2015, with the passage of SB 71 (Chapter 16 SLA 15), pharmacists began administering (and being reimbursed for) vaccinations in their facilities.** That made them a critical vaccine access point for Alaskans during the pandemic. If anyone tells you that pharmacists don't know how to administer vaccinations, remind them that they have been safely doing it for several years.

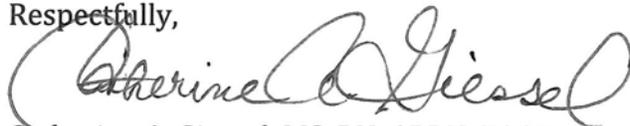
**Pharmacists today are required to be educated at the doctoral level.** They are the experts on pharmacokinetics (the action of bioactive chemicals on the human body systems). Pharmacists are consulted countless times a day by physicians and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses regarding pharmacologic treatment, drug interactions, availability and cost.

**Its time to remove the "middle man" in the management of chronic diseases.** Pharmacists are the experts in the use of prescription and over-the-counter medications in the management of chronic disease. HB 145, as written, will increase access to care and reduce the cost to Alaskans.

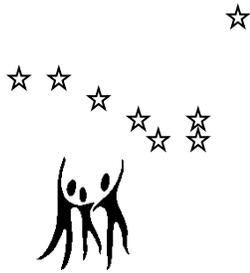
I applaud the **provisions related to pharmacy technicians.** The bill places the Board of Pharmacy as the regulatory oversight for this group of assistive personnel. The bill allows the pharmacy technician to administer vaccinations with the safeguard of Board regulation. This piece of public safety oversight is not present for the medical assistants who work in nearly all the clinics in Alaska; I could tell you stories of errors made by medical assistants giving vaccinations. **HB 145 recognizes the professional expertise and oversight of the pharmacy technician.**

**I write in unqualified support of HB 145 and urge legislators to expeditiously pass this public policy. It should be viewed as a piece of critical infrastructure for our state.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine A. Giessel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "G".

Catherine A. Giessel, MS, RN, APRN, FAANP  
12701 Ridgewood Rd  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516



# ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed to Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

## ALPHA

April 10, 2021

Alaska House of Labor and Commerce  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chair Fields, Co-Chair Spohnholz, and Members of the Committee,

The Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) supports HB145: "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy," which expands pharmacists' authority to align with the rest of the extensive list of health care providers.

This bill presents an opportunity to modernize pharmacy practice statutes in several key ways.

- Clearly defines patient care activities pharmacists may provide and empowers the Board of Pharmacy to regulate those services;
- Empowers the Board of Pharmacy to more effectively regulate pharmacy support staff;
- Supports reimbursement for health care services by clearly defining those services; and,
- Updates the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacist are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

Over the past year, Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services temporarily modified pharmacist authority for pharmacists to be able to bill for health care services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ensured that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have been able to fill important gaps related to testing, vaccinations, telehealth visits, and helping patients' manager chronic health conditions. This has had significant implications for increasing access to healthcare services in rural and underserved areas.

We believe that HB145 and the expansion of pharmacist authority to engage at a higher level, consistent with much of what they have already been doing over the past year, will more equitably promote and benefit public health across Alaska communities. We urge the committee to support this bill to help make these changes permanent.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this legislation.

The Alaska Public Health Association is a non-profit membership organization of over 150 health professionals, advocates, and community members dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Alaskans. ALPHA is also the state affiliate of the [American Public Health Association](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Hinterberger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Hinterberger, PhD, President  
ALPHA Board



# Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 31, 2021

**Board of Directors**

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President  
Juneau

*Renee Robinson*  
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*Chris Sperry*  
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*Tiffany Rudisill*  
Anchorage

Representative Zack Fields  
Representative Ivy Spohnholz  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: AKPhA Support of HB145—"Expand Pharmacist's Authority"

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz,

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) representing over 250 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student members statewide, I ask for your support of HB145 sponsored by Representative Liz Snyder. HB 145, "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy," is the result of collaboration between AKPhA, the Alaska Board of Pharmacy, and the UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

Pharmacists, as one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, rapidly responded to address the healthcare needs of their communities during the coronavirus pandemic. From vaccinations and COVID testing, to educating the public, to telehealth, and assisting patients in managing chronic health conditions, pharmacists met the call. However, outdated statutes must be updated to ensure that these beneficial pharmacist-provided services can continue post-pandemic.

HB 145 will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can independently provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services.
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

The COVID pandemic has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply because of outdated statutes and regulations. We appreciate your support of this bill and helping pharmacists to continue to engage at a much higher level during and after this crisis for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Glaspy, Pharm.D., DPLA  
President, Alaska Pharmacists Association

CC: Representative Calvin Schrage    Representative James Kaufman    Representative Liz Snyder  
     Representative David Nelson    Representative Ken McCarty    Representative Geran Tarr

E-mail: [akphrmcy@alaska.net](mailto:akphrmcy@alaska.net)

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



April 9, 2021

The Honorable Liz Snyder  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Snyder,

As director of the joint Doctor of Pharmacy Program of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and Idaho State University (ISU), I support passage of House Bill 145.

UAA's collaborative program graduates highly trained health professionals to provide health care services for Alaska. Our students' scope of training includes medication management, chronic disease treatment, health and wellness, and preventative services. Graduates are prepared to handle a variety of practice settings and specialties including primary care, critical care, emergency medicine, community pharmacy, and many others.

Alaska is no stranger to shortages in health care services. HB145 will, in part, help to alleviate these issues, particularly in the community and primary care settings of Alaska. Passage of HB 145 helps modernize Alaska's Pharmacy Practice Act will resolve long-standing regulatory issues that will allow more patients access to pharmacist healthcare services.

Sincerely,

Tom Wadsworth, PharmD, BCPS  
Assistant Dean for Alaska Programs  
Associate Professor

*The UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy program a collaborative program with Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health. The program located in Anchorage and is fully funded by student tuition with no specific contributions from the Alaska State General Fund.*



Electronic Mail

April 8, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Representative.liz.snyder@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.liz.snyder@akleg.gov)

**Re: ASHNHA Supports HB 145**

Representative Snyder,

The Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, home health and hospice agencies, and other health care providers. Our mission is to advance the shared interests of the health care industry to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.

ASHNHA supports your legislation concerning pharmacist services in Alaska. Like many of the health care heroes on the front lines during COVID-19, pharmacists have been acting with expanded authority to provide important health care services. This includes point-of-care testing, prescribing and administering the COVID-19 vaccine, and recommending therapeutic substitutions.

In collaboration with practitioners, pharmacists already provide patient care services for general health and wellness, disease prevention, and medication therapy, and ASHNHA appreciates that HB 145 formally recognizes these provisions of services and this provider type for reimbursement.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to partnering with you to solve this and the many other health care challenges facing Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, J.D., M.B.A.  
President & CEO



April 5, 2021

The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce is writing to ask for your support of HB 145: Expand Pharmacist Authority.

Our local pharmacy is a family owned and operated business that serves the community in the heart of downtown Petersburg. The Pharmacy has been serving this community for over 50 years.

During the pandemic Petersburg Rexall enrolled to become a vaccine clinic to assist as backup up to the community's mass effort to vaccinate and assist where needed. Their business never closed for 1 day during the pandemic and during this time they have accommodated patients needing to get vaccines that could not be accessed at the local clinic.

Your support of HB145 will primarily help to bring pharmacy services to many rural and underserved areas and not just through emergency declarations, but long overdue statute update recognition and realization.

Secondly your support will allow the expansion of trained technicians to become a means of administering vaccines from Covid-19 to the flu through supervision and support.

In addition, your support will allow pharmacist to continue to provide the medication management services that they are trained to perform improving outcomes from diabetes to cardiovascular disease.

HB 145 will empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate, pharmacists, student pharmacists and support staff who are and hope to continue to provide these services.

This bill does not expand any existing services.

In closing, Petersburg Rexall provides local jobs, services and the accessible healthcare needed daily whether our community is facing a pandemic or not. We hope you will support this HB145.

Sincerely,

Petersburg Chamber Board, President Jim Floyd  
Chamber Administrator, Mindy Lopez

**Island Pharmacy**  
**3526 Tongass Ave.**  
**Ketchikan, AK 99901**  
**907-225-6186**  
**e-mail: island.pharm@juno.com**

March 29, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder  
State Capitol Room 421  
RE: HB 145 Expand Pharmacists Authority

Dear Representative Snyder :

Thank you for sponsoring HB 145, Expand Pharmacists Authority. My family has been operating Island Pharmacy and providing *pharmacy* services in our area for over 47 years now. It is now time to update Alaska statutes to formally include *Pharmacists* in statute for services we are currently providing. Pharmacists at Island Pharmacy have provided over 1,000 Covid-19 doses and were recognized nationally in December for vaccinating assisted living residents the first week that vaccine was available. We are currently finishing up a major remodel so we can better provide *Pharmacist* services such as immunizations in the future.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for all Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, have rapidly responded to Alaskans' health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities by diligently ensuring residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

However, legislation is needed for these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services to continue beyond the pandemic. This bill will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can provide;
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services; and
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute). Our pharmacy is currently experiencing payment reimbursement issues related to administration of immunizations. In certain instances this may be due to lack of provider status.

The COVID experience has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simple because of outdated statutes and regulations. Our pharmacy and staff would appreciate your support of this legislation so we may continue to offer pharmacist services now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Barry Christensen, RPh/Owner

**From:** [Renee Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#); [Nancy Davis](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of HB 145  
**Date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:15:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [Robinson LOS HB 145.docx](#)

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Dear Representative Snyder:

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. I have worked directly in my role as an Associate Professor at the UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy and Alaska Pharmacist Association (AKPhA) President Elect and AKPhA Task Force Chair to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Pharmacists and student pharmacists have helped make Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic. Since Fall 2020, student pharmacists, many of which I have personally supervised have volunteered to administer >750 flu vaccines to vulnerable Assisted Living Home residents, and >1,500 COVID-19 vaccines to Alaskan providers and elders.

We would like to continue providing these critical services when we graduate and thus are writing in support of HB-145: Expand Pharmacist Authority Bill to update the outdated pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. There is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy. The goal of HB-145 is to provide clarity to healthcare providers, healthcare systems, and insurers about the medical services pharmacists offer, serving to better align with other healthcare disciplines and the currently enacted insurance code.

Enacted changes will allow pharmacists and student pharmacists to engage at a much higher level both during and after the crisis, increasing access to vital healthcare in all settings in which pharmacists practice (e.g., community, hospital, tribal and federal facilities, and primary care clinics).

Thank you again for your service and support,  
Renee Robinson

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**Renee Robinson, PharmD, MPH, MSPharm**  
**Associate Professor**



[Redacted signature block]

Virtual Office Hours:

April 1, 2021

Representative Fields  
State Capitol Room 24  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Fields:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. Pharmacists and student pharmacists participating in the Alaska COVID-19 response have worked diligently to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Over 100,000 Alaskans have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic; however, few know the role pharmacists have had in making this a reality. Over the past year pharmacists were mobilized across the state administering thousands of COVID point-of-care tests, flu and COVID vaccines across the state. Pharmacists in primary care clinics have provided hundreds of telehealth visits, helping patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc.) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet the needs.

During the Pandemic, pharmacists increased access to healthcare by providing COVID testing and vaccines; however, there is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services (i.e., disease state management for chronic diseases) to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. To ensure these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services continue, a few items need to be "cleaned-up" in current statutes. The purpose of this bill is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.

- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of pharmacist-provided patient care services. Note that pharmacists are the ONLY health care profession not covered in the state provider anti-discrimination statute.

The COVID experience has also shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Enacted changes will allow pharmacists to engage at a much higher level during and after the crisis. In addition, without these changes, I will be unable to sustain my clinical pharmacist position due to the absence of reimbursement for services rendered. I have and will continue to increase access to needed health services for our community, but only with the help of these legislative changes. I look forward to continue supporting the healthcare team at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Angela Mechelay Jaglowicz, Pharm.D. BCACP, CDCES

Clinical Pharmacist; Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program

Email: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Carlton, Callista](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [AKPhA](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 145: Pharmacy Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 8:33:14 AM

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Dear Labor and Commerce Committee,

This message is to ask for your support for HB 145: An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy and health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The purpose of HB145 is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

1. Clearly define patient care activities pharmacists may provide and empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate those services.
2. Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacy support staff more effectively.
3. Support reimbursement for health care services by clearly defining those services.
4. Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist.

As Pharmacy Clinical Director for Southcentral Foundation, I have the great privilege of working with some phenomenal pharmacists and technicians. Our primary care, integrated pharmacists offer in depth consults and medication training. Our tele-pharmacists navigate the challenges of remote healthcare and provide training and pharmaceutical services via PickPoint and mailing prescriptions. Even our central staffing pharmacists partner with outside programs like our homeless shelters and detox center to provide training, education and pharmacy services. During the pandemic, these services continued and additional priorities were added including supporting our mass vaccination clinic where we vaccinated up to 950 people per day. Pharmacists manned the vaccine station and consulted on vaccine questions. We also had seven pharmacy technicians step up and get vaccination certified so they could assist in the effort.

Pharmacists are valued contributors in healthcare and are providing quality services but have been unable to bill for these services. HB 145 will modernize the profession in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

Callista Carlton Pharm.D.  
Clinical Director of Pharmacy  
Southcentral Foundation

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Margaret Soden](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Adam Wool](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Representative.KenMcCarty@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.KenMcCarty@akleg.gov); [Molly Gray](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 145: Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy...  
**Date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:26:07 AM

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Dear Representative Wool,

I am writing to ask your support for HB 145: "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy."

During this pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians really stepped up, took care of their patients, and efficiently got immunizations to Alaska residents all over the state. As a recently retired pharmacist who worked in clinic pharmacies in Fairbanks for almost 50 years, I couldn't be more proud of my fellow professionals! Alaska's DHSS temporarily modified the State Plan Amendment to authorize billing privileges for pharmacists for the health care services they provided during the pandemic. It is imperative that these modifications become permanent and that the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services provided by a pharmacist become permanent as well. I have seen many changes to my practice over the years. I served on the Board of Pharmacy for four. four year terms over my career and I know how important it is to empower the Board to regulate pharmacy services and more effectively regulate pharmacy support staff.

Thank you for your service in our legislature and I urge you to support HB 145.

Margaret Soden, RPh  
  
Fairbanks Alaska

**From:** [Angela Jaglowicz](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [Rep. Liz Snyder](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority  
**Date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:57:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of Support Spohnholz.pdf](#)

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April 1, 2021

Representative Spohnholz  
State Capitol Room 406  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Spohnholz:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. Pharmacists and student pharmacists participating in the Alaska COVID-19 response have worked diligently to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Over 100,000 Alaskans have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic; however, few know the role pharmacists have had in making this a reality. Over the past year pharmacists were mobilized across the state administering thousands of COVID point-of-care tests, flu and COVID vaccines across the state. Pharmacists in primary care clinics have provided hundreds of telehealth visits, helping patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc.) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet the needs.

During the Pandemic, pharmacists increased access to healthcare by providing COVID testing and vaccines; however, there is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services (i.e., disease state management for chronic diseases) to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. To ensure these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services continue, a few items need to be "cleaned-up" in current statutes. The purpose of this bill is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of pharmacist-provided patient care services. Note that pharmacists are the ONLY health care profession not covered in the state provider anti-discrimination statute.

The COVID experience has also shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Enacted changes will allow pharmacists to engage at a much higher level during and after the crisis. In addition, without these changes, I will be unable to sustain my clinical pharmacist position due to the absence of reimbursement for services rendered. I have and will continue to increase access to needed health services for our community, but only with the help of these legislative changes. I look forward to continue supporting the healthcare team at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for many years to come.

Sincerely,

**Angela Jaglowicz, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDCES**  
Clinical Pharmacist & Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center & UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program  
Idaho State University College of Pharmacy

[Redacted signature and contact information]

## Alliana Salanguit

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**From:** Angela Jaglowicz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** Rep. James Kaufman  
**Cc:** akphrmcy@alaska.net; Rep. Liz Snyder  
**Subject:** SUPPORT HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support Kaufman.pdf

April 1, 2021

Representative Kaufman  
State Capitol Room 405  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Kaufman:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. Pharmacists and student pharmacists participating in the Alaska COVID-19 response have worked diligently to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Over 100,000 Alaskans have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic; however, few know the role pharmacists have had in making this a reality. Over the past year pharmacists were mobilized across the state administering thousands of COVID point-of-care tests, flu and COVID vaccines across the state. Pharmacists in primary care clinics have provided hundreds of telehealth visits, helping patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc.) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet the needs.

During the Pandemic, pharmacists increased access to healthcare by providing COVID testing and vaccines; however, there is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services (i.e., disease state management for chronic diseases) to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. To ensure these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services continue, a few items need to be "cleaned-up" in current statutes. The purpose of this bill is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff provide.

- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of pharmacist-provided patient care services. Note that pharmacists are the ONLY health care profession not covered in the state provider anti-discrimination statute.

The COVID experience has also shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Enacted changes will allow pharmacists to engage at a much higher level during and after the crisis. In addition, without these changes, I will be unable to sustain my clinical pharmacist position due to the absence of reimbursement for services rendered. I have and will continue to increase access to needed health services for our community, but only with the help of these legislative changes. I look forward to continue supporting the healthcare team at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for many years to come.

Sincerely,

**Angela Jaglowicz, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDCES**  
Clinical Pharmacist & Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center & UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program  
Idaho State University College of Pharmacy  
*physical:*

[Redacted signature block]



Date: 4/1/21  
Representative Snyder  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 145 - Expanded Pharmacist Authority Bill

Dear Representative Snyder:

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. I have worked directly in my role as an Associate Professor at the UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy and Alaska Pharmacist Association (AKPhA) President Elect and AKPhA Task Force Chair to ensure Alaskan residents are *well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated*.

Pharmacists and student pharmacists have helped make Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic. Since Fall 2020, student pharmacists, many of which I have personally supervised have volunteered to administer >750 flu vaccines to vulnerable Assisted Living Home residents, and >1,500 COVID-19 vaccines to Alaskan providers and elders.

We would like to continue providing these critical services when we graduate and thus are writing in support of HB-145: Expand Pharmacist Authority Bill to update the outdated pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. There is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy. The goal of HB-145 is to provide clarity to healthcare providers, healthcare systems, and insurers about the medical services pharmacists offer, serving to better align with other healthcare disciplines and the currently enacted insurance code.

Enacted changes will allow pharmacists and student pharmacists to engage at a much higher level both during and after the crisis, increasing access to vital healthcare in all settings in which pharmacists practice (e.g., community, hospital, tribal and federal facilities, and primary care clinics).

Thank you again for your service and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renee Robinson'.

Renee Robinson, PharmD, MPH, MSPharm - Associate Professor, UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy  
AKPhA President Elect, AKPhA Immunization Task Force Chair  
James Kaufman, Representative; Roger Holland, Senator  
reenerobinson@isu.edu

## Alliana Salanguit

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**From:** Margaret Soden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** Rep. Adam Wool  
**Cc:** Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. James Kaufman; Representative.KenMcCarty@akleg.gov; Molly Gray  
**Subject:** Support for HB 145: Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy...

Dear Representative Wool,

I am writing to ask your support for HB 145: "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy."

During this pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians really stepped up, took care of their patients, and efficiently got immunizations to Alaska residents all over the state. As a recently retired pharmacist who worked in clinic pharmacies in Fairbanks for almost 50 years, I couldn't be more proud of my fellow professionals! Alaska's DHSS temporarily modified the State Plan Amendment to authorize billing privileges for pharmacists for the health care services they provided during the pandemic. It is imperative that these modifications become permanent and that the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services provided by a pharmacist become permanent as well. I have seen many changes to my practice over the years. I served on the Board of Pharmacy for four. four year terms over my career and I know how important it is to empower the Board to regulate pharmacy services and more effectively regulate pharmacy support staff.

Thank you for your service in our legislature and I urge you to support HB 145.

Margaret Soden, RPh  
[REDACTED]

March 31, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB145 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Representative Snyder:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask for your support of HB145. I am an inpatient and consultant pharmacist. I have provided infusion and senior care pharmacy services to community members in Anchorage and Kotzebue for 14 years.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for all Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, have rapidly responded to Alaskans' health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities by diligently ensuring residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated. In addition, pharmacists have provided telehealth visits and helped patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet these needs.

However, legislation is needed for these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services to continue beyond the pandemic. This bill will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can independently provide;
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services; and
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

The COVID experience has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Please support this bill and help pharmacists continue to engage at a much higher level during and after this crisis for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Steve Schaber





**Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation**  
6000 Kakanak Road  
P.O. Box 130  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
(907) 842-5201  
(800) 478-5201  
FAX (907) 842-9354  
www.bbahc.org

*Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation is a tribal organization representing 28 villages in Southwest Alaska:*

- Aleknagik
- Chignik Bay
- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake
- Clark's Point
- Dillingham
- Egegik
- Ekuk
- Ekwok
- Goodnews Bay
- Ivanof Bay
- Kanatak
- King Salmon
- Knugank
- Koliganek
- Levelock
- Manokotak
- Naknek
- New Stuyahok
- Perryville
- Pilot Point
- Platinum
- Port Heiden
- Portage Creek
- South Naknek
- Togiak
- Twin Hills
- Ugashik

*Our Mission: We provide quality health care with competence, compassion, and sensitivity.*

April 9, 2021

Alaska State Capitol  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
Barnes 124

Co-Chair Spohnholz and Co-Chair Fields:

On behalf of Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) a consortium of 28 Alaskan Native Tribes in Southwest Alaska, I write in support of House Bill 145, an Act to Expand Pharmacist Authority.

The corporation oversees 21 village-based clinics and operates the Kakanak Hospital, a Critical Access Hospital accredited by The Joint Commission.

In both urban and rural communities, especially underserved areas, pharmacists provide critical services to patients in need of timely and efficient care. From vaccine administration and clinical advice, to prescription drug monitoring and ongoing management of many chronic health conditions, pharmacists are an essential component to ensuring Alaskans have access to needed care across the state.

While pharmacists have always played an important role in Alaska's health care system, the COVID pandemic highlighted their necessity in meeting individual patient needs and strengthening community-based health efforts. From telehealth visits to in-person vaccine administration, pharmacists allowed Alaskans to remain safe and healthy during a time of immense staffing and capacity strain on Alaska's health care system.

While hospital and provider groups have long recognized the critical role, pharmacists play in health care facilities and communities across the state, legislation is needed to align existing practices and authorities with statute.

This bill will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can independently provide;
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services; and
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

Within the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), pharmacists have been recognized for years for the care they provide as part of BBAHC's care team.

Statewide, the ATHIS relies on pharmacists in areas such as immunizations, diabetes, oncology, and overall medication optimization to minimize medication-related adverse events and hospitalizations.

House Bill 145 is a common-sense measure to ensure efficient and timely access to care for Alaskans across the state. I urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

**BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION**



Robert J. Clark  
President/Chief Executive Officer

cc: Bryce Edgmon, Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska Native Health Board  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Dr. Richard Asher, BBAHC Clinical Director  
Ralph Andrew, BBAHC Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer  
Ivy Dong, BBAHC Pharmacy Department Manager  
Stephanie Spencer, BBAHC Clinical Services Division Manager