



Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 9, 2021

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Co-Chairs Liz Snyder and Tiffany Zulkosky
Health & Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: AKPhA Support of House Bill 76 "Extending COVID-19 Disaster Declaration"

Dear Representatives Snyder and Zulkosky:

The Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) represents nearly 250 pharmacists and technicians statewide. Our members work front-line to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccinations among many other services to improve the health of Alaskans.

AKPhA would like to express our support for HB76 and the extension of the COVID-19 Disaster Declaration. The Disaster Declaration supported Alaska pharmacies, pharmacists, and technicians in a number of ways. These include bringing federal financial support and assistance into Alaska to support our businesses and healthcare providers, providing regulatory flexibility to ensure maximum access to safe care, allowing expanded telehealth capabilities, and ensuring payment for some pharmacy-provided services including COVID testing and vaccinations.

The pandemic continues to impact the physical, mental, and financial well-being of Alaskans. The extension of the Disaster Declaration provides the resources our members and state need to continue to manage and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. If HB76 is not passed, the state risks losing pharmacists, technicians, and pharmacies as key players in the fight to end the pandemic through testing and vaccinations. HB76 is critical to Alaska's healthcare system; it will allow us to continue to lead the nation with our COVID-19 response.

We applaud the continued efforts of the state and local leadership in making decisions that protect Alaskans. We look forward to and stand ready to continue the fight to end the pandemic. AKPhA strongly supports HB76 and urges lawmakers to quickly pass the bill.

Respectfully,

Ashley Schaber, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Past President, Alaska Pharmacists Association

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