

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator David Wilson

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 70

"An Act relating to opioid overdose drugs; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 70 allows the chief medical officer of the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to issue a statewide standing order for the prescription of an opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone. The chief medical officer currently has this authority; however, this authorization is set to sunset on June 31st, 2021. By removing the sunset date, local and regional overdose response programs, first responders, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and the public will continue to have the ability to directly distribute and access the lifesaving drug naloxone.

Naloxone is not a controlled substance and has no potential for abuse. This legislation benefits Alaska by saving lives. This translates to a direct costs savings to emergency services and law enforcement. It gives people who may overdose a greater chance of living and gives them an opportunity to get into treatment. It also goes without saying that this legislation benefits the many friends and family members of people who would die of an overdose without this lifesaving medication.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and lifesaving legislation.

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