

From: [Jane Conway](#)
To: [Rep. Genevieve Mina](#)
Cc: [Katy Giorgio](#)
Subject: FW: Parker Patterson reply re: HB 195 / SB 147 Pharmacy Patient Services
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 11:34:34 AM

From: Patterson, Parker W (LAW) <parker.patterson@alaska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:43 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Kacy Shrader <Kacy.Shrader@akleg.gov>; Legislation, Department of LAW (LAW sponsored) <law.legislation@alaska.gov>; GOV.Legislative.Office <GOV.GLO@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: SB 147 Pharmacy Patient Services

Good morning Senator,

To respond to your questions below:

1. Under current Alaska law, can abortion — including medication abortion — lawfully take place in a community pharmacy setting?

The short answer is no. AS 18.16.010 provides that:

(a) An abortion may not be performed in this state unless

(1) the abortion is performed by a physician licensed by the State Medical Board under [AS 08.64.200](#);

(2) the abortion is performed in a hospital or other facility approved for the purpose by the Department of Health or a hospital operated by the federal government or an agency of the federal government;

AS 18.16.090 includes medication induced abortion in the definition of “abortion.”

AS 18.16.010(a)(1) prohibits pharmacists from dispensing medications for abortions. And although AS 18.16.010(a)(2) requires that abortions be performed in a hospital or other facility approved by DoH, there are in reality few medical institutions—and zero community pharmacies—in Alaska that are authorized to do so under that section.

2. If pharmacists were granted limited prescriptive authority under HB 195, would that change any legal requirement — such as facility or provider requirements under AS 18.16.010(a)(1) and AS 18.16.090 — governing where and by whom medication abortion may be provided?

No. Neither HB 195 nor SB 147 propose any amendments to AS 18.16. Nor does either bill create a conflict with the language of AS 18.16. Instead, both bills would simply provide pharmacists the ability to provide limited patient services within the scope of their training and experience, and abortion will remain within the scope and purview of physicians (and, if the court injunction is upheld, APCs) under AS 18.16.010(a)(1).

Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Parker W. Patterson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

From: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 1:14 PM

To: Cox, Stephen J (LAW) <stephen.cox@alaska.gov>

Cc: Patterson, Parker W (LAW) <parker.patterson@alaska.gov>; Shrader, Kacy M (LEG) <Kacy.Shrader@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 147 Pharmacy Patient Services

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, Attorney General Cox,

SB 147 and HB 195 have been construed to intend increased access to chemical abortion in Alaska. This has never been the intent of the bills.

SB 147 contains specific language that states: "'patient care services" does not include the prescription of an abortion-inducing drug to a patient."

I would appreciate your office's guidance on the following questions related to these two bills:

- 1. Under current Alaska law, can abortion — including medication abortion — lawfully take place in a community pharmacy setting?**
- 2. If pharmacists were granted limited prescriptive authority under HB 195, would that change any legal requirement — such as facility or provider requirements under AS 18.16.010(a)(1) and AS 18.16.090 — governing where and by whom medication abortion may be provided?**

Based on Alaska statute and the [Department of Law's March 17, 2023 press release](#) *Clarity on Alaska Law and Mifepristone*, current law does the following:

- Defines abortion to include termination via drug or prescription.
- Limits who may *perform* abortions to licensed physicians (and, under court injunction, Advanced Practice Clinicians), with medication abortion provided in a hospital or clinic setting where the prescribing provider is present physically or via telehealth.

Does not permit direct dispensing or self-administration of mifepristone outside those statutory requirements.

That press release further noted that the Attorney General's letter to pharmacies did not change the legal availability of abortion drugs in Alaska and that direct dispensing to patients would violate existing law.

Because HB 195 does not include a specific amendment related to Alaska's abortion-specific statutes or their facility requirements, I need clarification that HB 195 maintains the status quo with respect to where medication abortion can lawfully occur. Therefore, please confirm that the following would be true:

- Medication abortion cannot be lawfully dispensed or administered in a community pharmacy under existing law; and
- Any limited prescriptive authority for pharmacists under HB 195 would not alter these requirements unless the underlying abortion statutes are amended.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Best Regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel

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