

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304
asmadocs.org

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Andy Josephson
Alaska State House
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 195 “An Act relating to collaborative practice agreements for pharmacists”

Dear Representative Josephson:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians and physician assistants statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA would like to express limited support for House Bill 195. ASMA is concerned about pharmacists practicing medicine. Physicians believe there are very different roles for pharmacists in team-based clinical settings and those in retail settings.

Pharmacists practicing in clinical settings have easy access to physicians and to the patient’s medical record. These pharmacists play a critical role in managing chronic conditions and are excellent additions to the clinical team. Retail pharmacists are already overworked and over stressed. They often don’t have time to take calls from physicians; they often don’t reach out to physicians when appropriate. (A recent case reported to me involved a patient prescribed 7.5 mg of a GLP-1 medication. The pharmacy was out of stock of the 7.5 mg, the 10 mg and the 12.5 mg doses so the Carrs pharmacist dispensed 15 mg without contacting the prescribing physician.) Retail pharmacies typically do not have the space, equipment, support staff or time for necessary patient interview and examination to diagnose and treat a patient. A CLIA waived test result is just that, a piece of data, not a diagnosis. And without access to the patient’s history or medical record, the pharmacist is practicing in the dark about preexisting conditions, relevant history and other possible contraindications to standard treatment.

We urge the committee to support amending HB 195 to support collaborative practice agreements for pharmacists in clinical settings and not allow retail pharmacists to practice medicine.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Pam Ventgen
Executive Director
Alaska State Medical Association

May 1, 2025

Representative Mina, Chair
House Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Mina and Members of the House Health and Social Services Committee,

On behalf of the University of Alaska Anchorage/Idaho State University Doctor of Pharmacy Program, I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 195: Pharmacist-Provided Patient Care Services.

As a collaborative Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, we are committed to educating and training highly qualified pharmacists who are prepared to meet the healthcare needs of Alaskans, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Our graduates complete a rigorous four-year curriculum that includes intensive didactic coursework, over 1,740 hours of direct patient care experience, and specialized training in clinical services such as disease management, prescribing for minor ailments, preventive care, and collaborative practice.

However, despite the breadth and depth of their training, current Alaska law unnecessarily limits pharmacists' ability to fully utilize their education, skills, and experience to improve patient care. House Bill 195 would help close the gap between what pharmacists are trained to do and what they are permitted to do under state law.

Importantly, we have seen firsthand the benefits of this model at our Idaho campuses and communities. In Idaho, similar expansions of pharmacist-provided patient care services have strengthened the healthcare workforce and significantly increased access to care, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas. Pharmacists in Idaho now routinely provide patient-centered services such as prescribing for minor ailments, managing chronic diseases, and delivering preventive care – all within their training and the standard of care. This model has improved healthcare accessibility without compromising patient safety and has helped address provider shortages by ensuring that highly trained pharmacists can contribute meaningfully to the care team.

National accreditation standards for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree require all colleges and schools of pharmacy to train practice-ready graduates who are prepared with the skills to diagnose and prescribe independently and provide patient-care services like those included in House Bill 195. This ensures that any Doctor of Pharmacy graduate from any program who may eventually practice in Alaska will have the necessary education, training, and clinical ability to safely provide these services to Alaska's residents – not just those who graduate from ISU/UAA.

Aligning pharmacists' authorized patient care services in Alaska with their education and training is a critical workforce and healthcare access solution. Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare providers in the state, particularly in communities with limited physician coverage. Authorizing pharmacists to provide timely, evidence-based patient care services will increase access to healthcare, reduce burden on emergency departments, and improve health outcomes across Alaska.

Our program is committed to graduating practice-ready pharmacists who are prepared to serve their communities at the highest level. House Bill 195 is an essential step to ensuring that Alaska's regulatory framework keeps pace with national educational standards, best practices, and the successful models we have seen implemented in other states like Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration of our strong support for House Bill 195. We stand ready to serve as a resource and to continue preparing future pharmacists who will help meet Alaska's healthcare needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Adams".

Jennifer L. Adams, PharmD, EdD, FAPhA, FNAP
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Division Of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Board of Pharmacy

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May 16, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature,

I am writing to offer my perspective as a pharmacy regulator regarding Idaho's experience with pharmacist prescribing under a **standard of care** regulatory model. In my role as the Bureau Chief of Health Professions for the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses and Executive Officer for the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy, I had oversight of the implementation and continue to enforce Idaho's standard of care model of pharmacy regulation as well as the independent prescribing authority for pharmacists.

Since the Idaho legislature's adoption of this approach in 2018, pharmacists in our state have been authorized to prescribe medications and provide clinical services based on their education, training and experience, provided they adhere to the prevailing standard of care. This model removes the need for detailed prescriptive rulemaking or specific drug lists and aligns pharmacists with the same regulatory expectations as other prescribers such as nurse practitioners and physicians.

I want to clearly emphasize:

In the years since this authority was implemented, Idaho has had no patient safety incidents involving pharmacists practicing outside of their scope or related to their prescribing practices.

This reflects not only the high level of professional integrity within the pharmacy community, but also the success of regulating healthcare professionals by outcome and competency rather than by procedure. Idaho's experience demonstrates that pharmacists are well-equipped to safely and effectively expand access to care in a way that supports rural communities and strengthens the overall healthcare system.

I encourage you to consider this evidence as you evaluate opportunities to update pharmacy practice in Alaska. A standard of care approach does not lower the bar— instead it sets a clear expectation across the pharmacy profession that pharmacists practice within their clinical abilities gained through their education and training. This is in alignment with how medicine and nursing regulate their licensees.

Please feel free to reach out if I can provide additional detail on Idaho's experience or assist in any way. Sincerely,

Nicole Chopski, PharmD, ANP

Executive Officer, Idaho State Boards of Pharmacy, Nursing and Medicine
Bureau Chief of Health Professions, Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses

From: [Anna Brecheisen](#)
To: [Katy Giorgio](#); [Rep. Genevieve Mina](#); [Jane Conway](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for HB 195 – Expanding Access to Care in Alaska
Date: Friday, April 3, 2026 3:39:12 PM

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to share my support for HB 195. This bill takes a practical, patient-centered approach to improving access to care across Alaska by allowing pharmacists to provide certain healthcare services within a standard of care that aligns with their education, training, and experience.

In many parts of Alaska, especially rural and underserved communities, getting timely care can be challenging. Pharmacists are often one of the most accessible healthcare providers, and HB 195 helps patients get care for routine and time-sensitive needs without unnecessary delays. For example, our pharmacy is open 7 days per week and offers walk-in availability to get questions answered from a licensed pharmacist.

It's also important to note that HB 195 does not allow pharmacists to make new diagnoses. Instead, it clearly outlines the care they can provide and emphasizes appropriate referrals when needed.

I respectfully encourage your support for HB 195 to help strengthen Alaska's healthcare system and improve access to care for patients across our state.

Sincerely,
Anna Brecheisen
PharmD/MBA
Sitka, AK

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From: [Erin Frohnapfel](#)
Subject: Support for HB 195 – Expanding Access to Care in Alaska
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026 10:47:28 AM

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 195.

This legislation represents a thoughtful, patient-centered approach to improving access to care across Alaska by allowing pharmacists to provide certain healthcare services within a standard of care framework, consistent with their education, training, and experience.

In a state where access to timely care can be limited—especially in rural and underserved communities, as the one I was born and raised in—pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare providers. HB 195 helps ensure that patients can receive care for routine and time-sensitive needs without unnecessary delays.

Importantly, HB 195 does not authorize pharmacists to make new diagnoses, but instead allows them to deliver care within clearly defined parameters, with appropriate referrals when needed.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 195 to strengthen Alaska’s healthcare system and improve access for patients across our state.

Best,
Erin Frohnapfel, PharmD, PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Resident
Cordova, Alaska

From: [Daniel Nelson](#)
To: [Katy Giorgio](#); rep.genevieve.mina@alaska.gov; [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Jane Conway](#); [Sen. Cathy Giesel](#)
Subject: Support for HB 195 – Expanding Access to Care in Alaska
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 12:03:45 PM

Support for HB 195 – Expanding Access to Care in Alaska

Dear Representative Mina and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 195.

This legislation represents a thoughtful, patient-centered approach to improving access to care across Alaska by allowing pharmacists to provide certain healthcare services within a standard of care framework, consistent with their education, training, and experience.

In a state where access to timely care can be limited—especially in rural and underserved communities—pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare providers. HB 195 helps ensure that patients can receive care for routine and time-sensitive needs without unnecessary delays. As a pharmacist serving the patients of Interior Alaska for over 20 years, I cannot emphasize enough how critical this legislation is to improving the quality of healthcare available to Alaskans.

Importantly, HB 195 does not authorize pharmacists to make new diagnoses, but instead allows them to deliver care within clearly defined parameters, with appropriate referrals when needed.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 195 to strengthen Alaska’s healthcare system and improve access for patients across our state.

Sincerely,

Dan

Daniel Nelson, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Pharmacy
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From: [Karina Stark](#)
To: [Katy Giorgio](#); [Rep. Genevieve Mina](#); [Jane Conway](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for HB 195 – Expanding Access to Care in Alaska
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2026 10:37:54 PM

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 195.

This legislation represents a thoughtful, patient-centered approach to improving access to care across Alaska by allowing pharmacists to provide certain healthcare services within a standard of care framework, consistent with their education, training, and experience.

In a state where access to timely care can be limited—especially in rural and underserved communities—pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare providers. HB 195 helps ensure that patients can receive care for routine and time-sensitive needs without unnecessary delays.

Importantly, HB 195 does not authorize pharmacists to make new diagnoses, but instead allows them to deliver care within clearly defined parameters, with appropriate referrals when needed.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 195 to strengthen Alaska’s healthcare system and improve access for patients across our state.

Sincerely,
Karina Stark, PharmD, MEd
Clinical Assistant Pharmacy Professor
UAA/ISU L.S. Skaggs College of Pharmacy
Eagle River, AK