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Senator Dunbar
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Holmgren, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Sitka, Alaska. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a pharmacist, I have completed extensive education and clinical training, earning my Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completing over 36 years of pharmacy services. I have worked in hospital settings, retail settings and currently a long term care setting. Every day in my practice, I help patients receive timely care, manage chronic illnesses, and support preventive health. If it wasn't for a LAW in place requiring a pharmacist monthly review/report on the resident's medications, I don't think I would be permitted to spend the time writing this monthly report because there is no financial benefit (reimbursable time) to my employer.

After 36 years I am saddened to say that we are championing for the same issues for our profession; To be given provider status so we can be recognized and included as a knowledgeable member of the health care team. If we are able to bill for our services, like other ancillary team members, we will be assigned a seat at the table because we will be a financial asset while practicing our expertise in medication management.

Pharmacists receive the same number of years of schooling as physicians, including residencies and internships, all focusing on the complexities of medications alone. We are more than capable to perform in this role of medication specialist, please give us the opportunity by supporting SB 147. Healthcare services for Alaskans will be expanded as a result.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Holmgren, PharmD.
Sitka Long Term Care/Whites Pharmacy



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