



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUKNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senator, District N
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: ANHB Support for SB 147 – Pharmacist

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)¹, I write in support of Senate Bill (SB) 147, an Act relating to the prescription and administration of drugs and devices by pharmacists; relating to reciprocity for pharmacists; and providing for an effective date.

SB 147 authorizes pharmacists to provide patient care services—including prescribing and administration of medications—within the scope of their education, training, and experience. ANHB supports this legislation because it will increase access to pharmacist-provided patient care services, maximizing the professional capacity of Alaska's existing healthcare professionals. There are too few Alaskan providers to fill the current demand for healthcare services in Alaska, and job vacancies in the industry are significant. Pharmacists are already an integral part of the AHS and the need for their services is growing. The State of Alaska should take every commonsense step to maximize our existing healthcare workforce, including the more than 500 pharmacists, to ensure access to safe care and referrals to other practitioners as needed.

Pharmacists are highly qualified, trained healthcare professionals. We support legislation that enables pharmacists to utilize the full scope of their education, training, and experience to promote community health and safety for the benefit of Alaskans. Should you have any questions, please contact ANHB at anhb@anhb.org or (907) 729-7510.

Sincerely,

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board

¹ ANHB was established in 1968 to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), which is comprised of Tribal health programs that serve the 229 Tribes and over 234,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people throughout the state. As the statewide Tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB supports Alaska's Tribes and Tribal programs to achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.