



April 15, 2025

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99811
Via email: Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

RE: Support for SB 147A

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the Maniilaq Association, we 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.

Maniilaq Association is the Tribal Health Organization (THO) for the Northwest Arctic Region of Alaska, which provides health care to a population of about 8,000 Alaska Native (AN) people who live in 12 remote rural communities in a region of about 34,000 square miles. Our service area is a Roadless rural area that faces significant challenges due to high costs, limited access, and being a high poverty area where communities are only accessible year-round by small aircraft.

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 ATHS 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 enable pharmacists to utilize the full scope of their education, training, and experience to promote community health and safety for the benefit of Alaskans. Maniilaq Association strongly encourage you to support of Senate Bill (SB) 147.

Sincerely,

Tim Gilbert, President/CEO

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CC:

Senator Donald Olson, Email: Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov

Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Email: Representative.Robyn.Burke@akleg.gov

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Kotzebue Qikiqtaruk, Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliniq, Kobuk Laugviik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Point Hope Tikigaq, Selawik Akuligaq, Shungnak Isinnaq