



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community, &
Economic Development**

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing
Board of Pharmacy

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January 17, 2024

The Honorable Representative Sumner
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov

Re: HB 226 –Patient Freedom of Pharmacy Choice Bill– Letter of Support

Dear Representative Sumner,

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy (“board”) is submitting its position on HB 226, An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to insurance; relating to pharmacies; relating to pharmacists; relating to pharmacy benefits managers; relating to patient choice of pharmacy; and providing for an effective date. The board is in support of HB 226 because it:

- Gives patients the right to access medications at the pharmacy of their choice if their pharmacy is a willing provider.
- Provides framework for transparency and fair reimbursement for pharmacies and patients.
- Protects patient access to clinician administered medication by restricting the practices of white bagging and brown bagging.
- Aligns with the board’s FY2023 strategic plan, specifically goal #4 which is to grow Alaska’s economy while promoting community health and safety.

The board endeavors to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy. Over the last few years, the board has received comment from the public, Alaskan pharmacists, technicians, and organizations about current practices limiting access to Alaskan pharmacies and compromising the safety of medications received in the state. We have continued to see the negative impacts the current practices are having on Alaskans and recognize change is needed quickly. HB 226 will help ensure Alaska’s pharmacies can continue to safely serve Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ashley Schaber, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Chair, Alaska Board of Pharmacy