

# Alaska State Medical Association

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April 4, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Sumner  
Alaska State House  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 226 “An Act relating to pharmacies, pharmacists and benefit managers”

Dear Representative Sumner:

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 support for House Bill 226. ASMA is concerned about the number of local pharmacies that have closed in recent years. Alaska’s communities need access to pharmacies and the pharmacists that provide their expertise and willingness to counsel and assist patients in our great state.

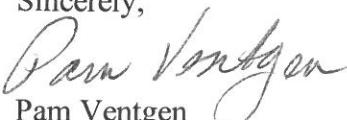
Our physicians have also expressed their concerns about the delays that can occur with brown-bagging and white-bagging. As you are no doubt aware, treatment delays that occur when essential infusion medications don’t arrive on time or arrive improperly handled and spoiled, cause physical and mental distress to patients who must wait for medications to be resent.

Lastly, this bill preserves some rights of Pharmacy Benefit Managers while protecting Alaskan patients’ right to choose which pharmacy provides essential medications.

We urge the committee to support HB 226.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Pam Ventgen  
Executive Director  
Alaska State Medical Association