



April 17, 2024

Representative Jesse Sumner
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: ANTHC Support of House Bill 226

Representative Sumner,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), I write in support of House Bill (HB) 226.

ANTHC is a statewide tribal health organization serving all 229 tribes and all Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people in Alaska. ANTHC provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health, and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation operate programs at the Alaska Native Medical Center, the statewide tertiary care hospital for all AN/AI people in Alaska, under the terms of Public Law 105-83.

The provisions of HB 226 reflect the growing nationwide concern among patients and providers on the largely unregulated business practices of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and their increasingly intrusive role in health care decision-making and patient safety. In Alaska, the adverse impacts of these practices are seen in increased pharmacy administrative burdens, delayed and damaged medications, and the continued siphoning of Alaska's limited financial health care resources to outside corporations.

HB 226 seeks to protect patients and providers from the profit-motivated policies of the PBM industry, recognizing the "one-size-fits-all" business model applied in large metropolitan areas fails to recognize the reality of delivering prescription medications across Alaska, especially in our isolated rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if additional information can be provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique R. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monique R. Martin
Vice President, Intergovernmental Affairs

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org