



April 15, 2025

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar  
Chair, Health & Social Services Committee  
Butrovich 205  
120 4th St  
Juneau, AK 99801

### **SB 147 Pharmacist Prescription Authority – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dunbar, Vice Chair Giessel, and members of the Health & Social Services Committee:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) writes in support of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 147](#) (Sen. Giessel). SB 147 updates state law to align the pharmacist's role with their extensive education and training. It ensures that patients will continue to have accessible health care services and medications from their trusted local pharmacist.

SB 147 better aligns the pharmacists' role with their education and training by allowing pharmacists to order laboratory tests and furnish medications to facilitate care for their patients. Alaska pharmacists have been testing and treating patients since September 2021, when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the ninth amendment under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures. This amendment authorized pharmacists to order and administer FDA-authorized, approved, or licensed subcutaneous, intramuscular, or certain oral therapeutics.<sup>1</sup> As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding Alaskans' access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas that lack access to low-cost health care services, it will expire on December 31, 2029.<sup>2</sup> SB 147 makes this temporary federal authority permanent under pharmacists' state scope of practice to minimize interruptions to patient access to these low-cost preventive care services provided by pharmacists and ensures Alaska can meet its citizens' public health needs, particularly in remote areas of Alaska where pharmacists may be the only health care providers for miles.

SB 147 also aligns pharmacists' scope of practice with many states where patients can receive accessible treatment for health conditions that do not need a new diagnosis, are minor, or after performing a point-of-care test under federal law, or for emergencies that threaten the health of the patient. Pharmacists can

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<sup>1</sup> Ninth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/14/2021-19790/ninth-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

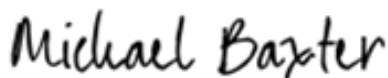
<sup>2</sup> 12th Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

already test and treat for varying health conditions in 14 states<sup>3</sup> via a statewide protocol, standing order, or independent prescriptive authority.

Substantial published literature documents the proven and significant improvement in patient outcomes<sup>4</sup> and reduction in health care expenditures<sup>5</sup> when pharmacists are optimally leveraged as the medication experts on patient-care teams. SB 147 ensures that Alaskans maintain access to services they have already been receiving from pharmacists for years and better aligns the pharmacists' role with their extensive education and training.

For these reasons, APhA strongly supports SB 147 and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Senior Advisor for State Government Affairs, by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter  
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Senator Cathy Giessel, Vice Chair  
Senator Matt Claman  
Senator Löki Tobin  
Senator Shelley Hughes

**About APhA:** APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care and enhance public health. **In Alaska, with 510 licensed pharmacists and 870 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents pharmacists, students, and pharmacy technicians that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents.** As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

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<sup>3</sup> Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia

<sup>4</sup> Giberson S, Yoder S, Lee MP. Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General. Office of the Chief Pharmacist. U.S. Public Health Service. Dec 2011. Available at: [https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/misc/improving\\_patient\\_and\\_health\\_system\\_outcomes.pdf](https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/misc/improving_patient_and_health_system_outcomes.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Murphy EM, Rodis, JR, Mann HJ. Three ways to advocate for the economic value of the pharmacist in health care. Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. August 2020. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1544319120303927>