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April 18, 2025

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 147 – Pharmacist Provided Patient Care Services

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacy Association (AKPhA), I write to express our strong support for SB 147 – Pharmacist Provided Patient Care Services.

AKPhA proudly represents pharmacists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacies operating in all corners of our state—urban, rural, and remote. This legislation is an important step toward ensuring that Alaskans have timely, equitable access to healthcare services, especially in areas facing critical provider shortages.

SB 147 authorizes pharmacists to provide patient care services—including prescribing and administration of medications—within the scope of their education, training, and experience. This authority aligns with the current standard of pharmacist education and practice nationwide and ensures that Alaskans can fully benefit from the expertise of their most accessible healthcare providers.

Pharmacists today are highly trained clinicians. Every Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) graduate completes four years of intensive didactic coursework paired with a minimum of 1,740 hours of direct patient care before earning their degree. Many go on to pursue post-graduate residencies, clinical fellowships, certifications, and board specialties in fields ranging from ambulatory care and infectious disease to geriatrics and cardiology.

Yet despite this extensive training, pharmacists in Alaska remain underutilized due to outdated legal restrictions. SB 147 modernizes our statutes to reflect current clinical realities and removes unnecessary barriers that limit patient care. Similar legislation has been adopted in many other states and has demonstrably expanded healthcare access and improved outcomes, especially in underserved and rural areas.

Alaskans trust their pharmacists and regularly seek their advice and care. Authorizing pharmacists to provide care within their training improves system efficiency, supports team-based care, and reduces delays in treatment for patients who need it most. This bill helps maximize Alaska's existing healthcare workforce while reducing burdens on physicians and emergency departments.

For these reasons, the Alaska Pharmacy Association urges your full support of SB 147. We stand ready to serve as a resource and partner as this legislation advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandy Seignemartin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brandy" being more prominent than the last name "Seignemartin".

Brandy Seignemartin, PharmD
Executive Director
Alaska Pharmacy Association