

Brittany L. Keener, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, FAKPhA  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Anchorage, AK  
blkeener@anthc.org  
907-729-2161  
April 18, 2025

Senator Dunbar  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Keener, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Anchorage and the President of the Alaska Pharmacy Association. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a pharmacist, I have completed extensive education and clinical training, earning my Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy. I average over 90 hours of continuing education each year and have been in practice since 2007. Every day, I see opportunities where pharmacists can help patients access timely care for common conditions, manage chronic illnesses, and support preventive health — but existing statutory barriers often prevent us from doing so fully. I manage a staff of over 60 pharmacists, interns, and technicians across three pharmacies. The potential impact we could have with the provisions of SB147 is remarkable.

SB 147 would allow pharmacists to practice at the top of our clinical ability, within a standard of care framework like other healthcare professionals. By streamlining patient access to pharmacist-provided services, this bill will improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary burdens on physicians and emergency departments.

I am confident in my ability, and my staff's ability, to provide safe, effective patient care, and I am committed to collaborating with other healthcare team members to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 147 to expand access to high-quality healthcare services for Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany L. Keener", written over a light blue vertical line.

Brittany L. Keener, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, FAKPhA  
Ambulatory Pharmacy Manager – Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
President – Alaska Pharmacy Association

Sarah Spencer DO, FASAM  
Ninilchik Traditional Council Community Clinic  
Ninilchik, AK  
sarahspencerak@gmail.com  
907-299-7460  
4/18/2025

Senator Dunbar  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Spencer, and I am a physician practicing in the Kenai Peninsula, specializing in addiction medicine. I am writing today in support of **Senate Bill 147 – Pharmacist Provided Patient Care Services**.

Pharmacists are valued members of the healthcare team, playing an essential role in medication management, patient education, chronic disease support, and preventive services. In my practice, I frequently collaborate with pharmacists and recognize their contributions to improving patient outcomes and ensuring continuity of care.

**Alaska has experienced the nations greatest increase in rates of overdose death in 2021 and 2023. The top evidence-based intervention to reduce mortality in opioid use disorder (OUD) is opioid agonist pharmacotherapy such as buprenorphine and methadone, which reduce death rates by more than 60%. Access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is severely limited in many parts of Alaska, and pharmacists can play a key role in increasing access by assisting with prescribing and administering MOUD, particularly oral and monthly injectable buprenorphine. Alaska should utilize every tool at its disposal to tackle this epidemic, and the federal MAT act allows of additional flexibility for expanding access to treatment by engaging pharmacist in diagnosing and treating OUD.**

Importantly, pharmacists are well-positioned to help triage patients appropriately and escalate care when higher levels of intervention are needed — working in true partnership with physicians and other providers. I urge you to support SB 147, and **although I am not available to testify on April 22<sup>nd</sup> due to patient care responsibilities, I am happy to be contacted with any questions.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Spencer DO, FASAM  
NTC Community Clinic

Carrie Urena  
Klawock AK Opioid Treatment Program  
Klawock, AK  
carrieurena22@gmail.com  
(907) 888-8234  
4/18/25

Senator Dunbar  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carrie Urena, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Klawock AK which is a small rural community in southeast AK on the Prince of Wales Island. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a pharmacist, I have completed extensive education and clinical training, earning my Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completing over 1,900 hours of hands-on patient care training. I went on to complete a PGY1 residency with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and then began work in 2023 in a newly opened opioid treatment program in Klawock AK. Every day in my practice I see opportunities where our underserved community members could benefit from additional pharmacist services — but existing statutory barriers prevent this from happening.

Those who know me know I'm extremely passionate about the work I do, working with our rural populations suffering from opioid use disorder. Throughout my education and into my residency I placed a high emphasis on experiences and learning opportunities that would enhance my knowledge and ability to serve this patient population. Our Alaskan statistics tell the story of the immense need we have for greater access to care, particularly when addressing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). At the end of 2023 when the majority of our nation saw a drop in opioid related deaths, here in AK our numbers continue to rise. Not only did we not see the decrease that so many other states saw, but we also actually had increased rates. It is clear that what we are currently doing is not enough. We simply don't have enough providers to cover the need for services. Our smaller, more rural communities continue to have little to no access to essential services such as MOUD. This is where pharmacists can begin to make a positive impact and really help bridge these gaps in care and services. The growing amount of evidence supporting pharmacists' involvement in MOUD continues to show improved patient outcomes. Our training and education make us uniquely qualified to help bridge the service gaps and improve access for MOUD. We are the medication experts with extensive knowledge about drugs, drug metabolism, drug interactions, and drug safety. We are taught how to assess and identify patients with sub- and supratherapeutic medication regimens. Our state continues to talk about increasing access for MOUD and the undeniable need for these services in our rural populations and we, as pharmacists, are here and more than capable of helping to make this happen. Our communities deserve to have access to these services. These increasing "rates" we continue to talk about and quote, were living breathing people that are no longer with us. Their

lives are lost forever. It's time to bring this immense pain and suffering our communities are feeling to stop. I know that I am eager to help bring healing to our communities, please let me use my education and training to bring some relief to the suffering our state is feeling right now.

SB 147 would allow me to practice at the top of my clinical ability, within a standard of care framework like other healthcare professionals. By streamlining patient access to pharmacist-provided services, this bill will improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary burdens on physicians and emergency departments.

I am confident in my ability to provide safe, effective patient care, and I am committed to collaborating with other healthcare team members to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 147 to expand access to high-quality healthcare services for Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Urena  
PharmD, BCPS  
Klawock Opioid Treatment Program

Karen Miller RPH  
Denali Pharmacy  
Fairbanks, AK  
[Karen.miller@foundationhealth.org](mailto:Karen.miller@foundationhealth.org)  
907-322-6314

4/18/2025

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

My name is Karen Miller, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a lifelong Alaskan, I've witnessed firsthand the many changes in our healthcare system. When I was growing up, it was common to be able to call your primary care provider at home after hours. Today, however, it's often difficult for patients to get a timely appointment with their provider. Pharmacists can help fill this gap in care.

Pharmacists today complete extensive clinical training and education, earning a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. We are the most accessible healthcare professionals — a fact that became especially clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, when pharmacists stepped up to advise patients, administer vaccines, and help maintain continuity of care during a time of crisis.

Every day in my practice, I see opportunities to help patients manage common conditions, chronic illnesses, and preventive care needs — but current laws limit how fully we can contribute. My current practice is working to embed pharmacists into primary care clinics, including those focused on behavioral health and substance use disorders. **SB 147** would help streamline this process and empower pharmacists to provide care more effectively.

This bill would allow pharmacists to practice at the top of their training and licensure, within a standard-of-care framework — just like other healthcare providers. By doing so, **SB 147** will reduce strain on overburdened physicians and emergency departments, while improving access and outcomes for patients.

I am confident in my ability to provide safe, effective care, and I am fully committed to working alongside other members of the healthcare team to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients.

I respectfully urge you to support **SB 147** and help expand access to high-quality healthcare services for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Karen Miller RPH



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www.islandpharmacyak.com

April 22, 2025

Senator Forrest Dunbar  
Chair Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Capitol Building Davis 106  
Juneau, AK

Senator Dunbar,

I am writing in support of SB 147 Pharmacist-Provided Patient Care Services. My father started Island Pharmacy in 1974 and we have been serving patients in Southern Southeast for over 51 years. The medications and services we offer now are vastly different and much more complex now. Yet the number of medical providers in our community is shrinking and becoming more dependent on travelling/non-permanent personnel. Pharmacies and pharmacists such as those I employ are highly trained and able to provide a standard of care which supplements existing medical services in our community. SB 147 provides language critical to allowing pharmacists to improve healthcare across Alaska including communities such as mine.

I appreciate you and your Senate HES colleagues efforts to help insure Alaskans receive adequate healthcare. I believe passage of SB 147 will assist in that endeavor.

Respectfully,

*Barry Christensen, RPh*

Barry Christensen, RPh/Owner

My name is Margaret Soden and I am retired pharmacist living in Fairbanks Alaska and I strongly support SB 147.

I actively practiced in community pharmacies in Fairbanks for over 50 years. I also served two 8 year terms on the Alaska Board of Pharmacy. During my last 4 year term, in the early 2000's, the Board of Pharmacy fought and won a challenge from the Board of Medicine over our collaborative practice protocols. These protocols recognized that pharmacists had the appropriate knowledge and credentials to safely prescribe and administer certain drugs or devices to patients under certain conditions.

For over 20 years, these collaborative practice agreements have worked very well, and, in particular, meant that immunizations were readily available during the recent pandemic resulting in many, many more Alaskans being protected. Because our local pharmacies are open on weekends, in the evening, and sometimes on holidays, our friends and neighbors can access healthcare services more readily. Pharmacists are trusted healthcare providers who can safely help with routine treatments.

Please pass SB 147 to help pharmacists serve Alaska by improving access to care across our state. Thank you

April 22, 2025

Senator Dunbar, Chair  
Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Dunbar and Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

On behalf of the University of Alaska Anchorage/Idaho State University Doctor of Pharmacy Program, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 147: Pharmacist-Provided Patient Care Services.

As a collaborative Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, we are committed to educating and training highly qualified pharmacists who are prepared to meet the healthcare needs of Alaskans, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Our graduates complete a rigorous four-year curriculum that includes intensive didactic coursework, over 1,740 hours of direct patient care experience, and specialized training in clinical services such as disease management, prescribing for minor ailments, preventive care, and collaborative practice.

However, despite the breadth and depth of their training, current Alaska law unnecessarily limits pharmacists' ability to fully utilize their education, skills, and experience to improve patient care. Senate Bill 147 would help close the gap between what pharmacists are trained to do and what they are permitted to do under state law.

Importantly, we have seen firsthand the benefits of this model at our Idaho campuses and communities. In Idaho, similar expansions of pharmacist-provided patient care services have strengthened the healthcare workforce and significantly increased access to care, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas. Pharmacists in Idaho now routinely provide patient-centered services such as prescribing for minor ailments, managing chronic diseases, and delivering preventive care – all within their training and the standard of care. This model has improved healthcare accessibility without compromising patient safety and has helped address provider shortages by ensuring that highly trained pharmacists can contribute meaningfully to the care team.

National accreditation standards for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree require all colleges and schools of pharmacy to train practice-ready graduates who are prepared with the skills to diagnose and prescribe independently and provide patient-care services like those included in Senate Bill 147. This ensures that any Doctor of Pharmacy graduate from any program who may eventually practice in Alaska will have the necessary education, training, and clinical ability to safely provide these services to Alaska's residents – not just those who graduate from ISU/UAA.



Aligning pharmacists' authorized patient care services in Alaska with their education and training is a critical workforce and healthcare access solution. Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare providers in the state, particularly in communities with limited physician coverage. Authorizing pharmacists to provide timely, evidence-based patient care services will increase access to healthcare, reduce burden on emergency departments, and improve health outcomes across Alaska.

Our program is committed to graduating practice-ready pharmacists who are prepared to serve their communities at the highest level. Senate Bill 147 is an essential step to ensuring that Alaska's regulatory framework keeps pace with national educational standards, best practices, and the successful models we have seen implemented in other states like Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration of our strong support for SB 147. We stand ready to serve as a resource and to continue preparing future pharmacists who will help meet Alaska's healthcare needs.

Sincerely,



**Jennifer L. Adams, PharmD, EdD, FAPhA, FNAP**

**Associate Dean for Academic Programs | Professor | L.S. Skaggs College of Pharmacy**

ISU Meridian Sam and Aline Skaggs Health Science Center | Room 749G

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(208) 373-1868 | [jenadams@isu.edu](mailto:jenadams@isu.edu)

**From:** [Liz Holmgren](#)  
**To:** [Senate Health and Social Services](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Senate Bill 147  
**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2025 8:36:13 AM

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Elizabeth Holmgren, PharmD.

Whites Pharmacy

Sitka, AK 99835

[lizh@whitesalaska.com](mailto:lizh@whitesalaska.com)

907-738-2449

04/26/2025

Senator Dunbar

Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Holmgren, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Sitka, Alaska. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a pharmacist, I have completed extensive education and clinical training, earning my Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completing over 36 years of pharmacy services. I have worked in hospital settings, retail settings and currently a long term care setting. Every day in my practice, I help patients receive timely care, manage chronic illnesses, and support preventive health. If it wasn't for a LAW in place requiring a pharmacist monthly review/report on the resident's medications, I don't think I would be permitted to spend the time writing this monthly report because there is no financial benefit (reimbursable time) to my employer.

After 36 years I am saddened to say that we are championing for the same issues for our profession; To be given provider status so we can be recognized and included as a knowledgeable member of the health care team. If we are able to bill for our services, like other ancillary team members, we will be assigned a seat at the table because we will be a financial asset while practicing our expertise in medication management.

Pharmacists receive the same number of years of schooling as physicians, including residencies and internships, all focusing on the complexities of medications alone. We are more than capable to perform in this role of medication specialist, please give us the opportunity by supporting SB 147. Healthcare services for Alaskans will be expanded as a result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Holmgren, PharmD.

Sitka Long Term Care/Whites Pharmacy



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 526 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>.

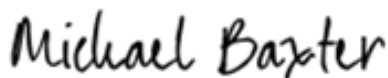
<sup>2</sup> 12th Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

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>

Carrie Urena  
Klawock AK Opioid Treatment Program  
Klawock, AK  
carrieurena22@gmail.com  
(907) 888-8234  
4/18/25

Senator Dunbar  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carrie Urena, and I am a pharmacist practicing in Klawock AK which is a small rural community in southeast AK on the Prince of Wales Island. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 147**.

As a pharmacist, I have completed extensive education and clinical training, earning my Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completing over 1,900 hours of hands-on patient care training. I went on to complete a PGY1 residency with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and then began work in 2023 in a newly opened opioid treatment program in Klawock AK. Every day in my practice I see opportunities where our underserved community members could benefit from additional pharmacist services — but existing statutory barriers prevent this from happening.

Those who know me know I'm extremely passionate about the work I do, working with our rural populations suffering from opioid use disorder. Throughout my education and into my residency I placed a high emphasis on experiences and learning opportunities that would enhance my knowledge and ability to serve this patient population. Our Alaskan statistics tell the story of the immense need we have for greater access to care, particularly when addressing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). At the end of 2023 when the majority of our nation saw a drop in opioid related deaths, here in AK our numbers continue to rise. Not only did we not see the decrease that so many other states saw, but we also actually had increased rates. It is clear that what we are currently doing is not enough. We simply don't have enough providers to cover the need for services. Our smaller, more rural communities continue to have little to no access to essential services such as MOUD. This is where pharmacists can begin to make a positive impact and really help bridge these gaps in care and services. The growing amount of evidence supporting pharmacists' involvement in MOUD continues to show improved patient outcomes. Our training and education make us uniquely qualified to help bridge the service gaps and improve access for MOUD. We are the medication experts with extensive knowledge about drugs, drug metabolism, drug interactions, and drug safety. We are taught how to assess and identify patients with sub- and supratherapeutic medication regimens. Our state continues to talk about increasing access for MOUD and the undeniable need for these services in our rural populations and we, as pharmacists, are here and more than capable of helping to make this happen. Our communities deserve to have access to these services. These increasing "rates" we continue to talk about and quote, were living breathing people that are no longer with us. Their

lives are lost forever. It's time to bring this immense pain and suffering our communities are feeling to stop. I know that I am eager to help bring healing to our communities, please let me use my education and training to bring some relief to the suffering our state is feeling right now.

SB 147 would allow me to practice at the top of my clinical ability, within a standard of care framework like other healthcare professionals. By streamlining patient access to pharmacist-provided services, this bill will improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary burdens on physicians and emergency departments.

I am confident in my ability to provide safe, effective patient care, and I am committed to collaborating with other healthcare team members to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 147 to expand access to high-quality healthcare services for Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Urena  
PharmD, BCPS  
Klawock Opioid Treatment Program

Sarah Spencer DO, FASAM  
Ninilchik Traditional Council Community Clinic  
Ninilchik, AK  
sarahspencerak@gmail.com  
907-299-7460  
4/18/2025

Senator Dunbar  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Spencer, and I am a physician practicing in the Kenai Peninsula, specializing in addiction medicine. I am writing today in support of **Senate Bill 147 – Pharmacist Provided Patient Care Services**.

Pharmacists are valued members of the healthcare team, playing an essential role in medication management, patient education, chronic disease support, and preventive services. In my practice, I frequently collaborate with pharmacists and recognize their contributions to improving patient outcomes and ensuring continuity of care.

**Alaska has experienced the nations greatest increase in rates of overdose death in 2021 and 2023. The top evidence-based intervention to reduce mortality in opioid use disorder (OUD) is opioid agonist pharmacotherapy such as buprenorphine and methadone, which reduce death rates by more than 60%. Access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is severely limited in many parts of Alaska, and pharmacists can play a key role in increasing access by assisting with prescribing and administering MOUD, particularly oral and monthly injectable buprenorphine. Alaska should utilize every tool at its disposal to tackle this epidemic, and the federal MAT act allows of additional flexibility for expanding access to treatment by engaging pharmacist in diagnosing and treating OUD.**

Importantly, pharmacists are well-positioned to help triage patients appropriately and escalate care when higher levels of intervention are needed — working in true partnership with physicians and other providers. I urge you to support SB 147, and **although I am not available to testify on April 22<sup>nd</sup> due to patient care responsibilities, I am happy to be contacted with any questions.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Spencer DO, FASAM  
NTC Community Clinic





THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing  
Board of Pharmacy

P.O. Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
Main: 907.465.2550  
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April 3, 2025

The Honorable Senator Giessel  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 121  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB- 147A – Letter of Support

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy (“board”) unanimously supports SB 147A, An Act relating to the prescription and administration of drugs and devices by pharmacists; relating to reciprocity for pharmacists; and providing for an effective date, because it:

- Increases access to pharmacist-provided patient care services, allowing healthcare practitioners in Alaska to practice at the top of their education, training, and experience.
- Aligns with the standard of care, including models established within multiple other states, the federal healthcare system, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, and the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act.
- Encourages interdisciplinary collaboration for patient referral to other practitioners as needed, with pharmacists effectively working as part of the healthcare team to ensure access to safe care.
- Supports the board’s 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. The board previously supported and provided testimony for HB 145 (2021-2022 Legislative Session), which added AS 08.80.337 Other Patient Care Services. Since the passing of that bill, the board received multiple inquiries its applicability to independent prescribing. After feedback from the Alaska Department of Law, the Board recognized that clarifications were needed to allow pharmacists to practice at the top of their education, training, and experience. These changes, seen in SB 147A of the current legislative session, are important for overall access to patient care services in Alaska.

Pharmacists are highly qualified and educated healthcare professionals. We fully support the ability for pharmacists to exercise their education, training, and experience to promote community health and safety. As a regulatory body, we also support our ability to oversee these areas to the full capacity for the benefit to Alaskans and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Schaber".

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