From:	Tania Hernandez
To:	House Labor and Commerce
Subject:	Support for HB 195
Date:	Monday, February 16, 2026 10:55:54 AM
Attachments:	Outlook-oniwfpc1.png Signature.png

Hello,

My name is **Dr. Tania G. Hernandez**, and I serve as the Medical Director of **Bethesda Treatment and Recovery Center** in Anchorage. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 195.

I have practiced addiction medicine for the past decade and have witnessed firsthand the profound toll opioid use disorder has taken on individuals, families, and communities across Alaska. The greatest barrier we continue to face is not willingness to treat — it is timely access to evidence-based care.

HB 195 offers a practical, responsible way to narrow that gap.

Pharmacists are highly trained medication experts and are an essential part of modern healthcare teams. When empowered to work within structured protocols and under medical oversight, they can help initiate and adjust treatment promptly, prevent delays, and keep patients engaged during the moments when intervention matters most.

At our clinic, collaboration with our pharmacist allows us to respond in real time. Dose adjustments, medication education, and safety checks can occur without waiting for a provider appointment, which reduces suffering, prevents withdrawal, and decreases the risk of return to illicit opioid use. This model improves efficiency while maintaining high standards of safety, accountability, and compassion.

By allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their training, HB 195 strengthens the care team and expands access without sacrificing quality.

I urge you to support this bill as a meaningful step toward improving outcomes for Alaskans affected by addiction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tania G. Hernandez, DO
Medical Director
Addictionologist

BETHESDA
TREATMENT AND RECOVERY CENTER

Tania G. Hernandez, DO
Medical Director
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