

MEMORANDUM for the STATE OF ALASKA

To: Senator Bill Wielechowski

Date: 5 Feb 2010

From: Verdie Bowen
Director, Office of Veterans Affairs

Phone: 907-428-6016

Subject: Senate Bill No. 215

I support Senate Bill No. 215 in its entirety. The problem experienced this past year to issue prescription medication through the Veterans Administration Pharmacy to the veterans population at the Alaska Pioneer Home should have been an easy one, but when federal and state governments are involved it becomes very complicated. Each time a solution was reached between the government agencies, a new reason was found not to issue the medications. Several work a rounds were attained until finally a good solution was reached. The time that passed between solution and implementation was way too long for the veterans and their families. The stress caused on the family members was enormous.

The basic issue of this problem was it affected the veterans who could not speak for themselves. I am speaking of those veterans with severe Alzheimer's and Dementia. I know a good solution was attained in the end and it does help the veterans who live in the Pioneer Homes now. But, I fear when we are all gone and this problem arises again no one will have the corporate knowledge to help these veterans again. By enacting Senate Bill 215 this will take the administration solution today and make it law and the concern I have about this issue arising again will be unfounded.

Thanks you for your support of SB 215.

v/r

Verdie A. Bowen

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