



Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 31, 2021

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Anchorage

Representative Zack Fields
Representative Ivy Spohnholz
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: AKPhA Support of HB145—"Expand Pharmacist's Authority"

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz,

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) representing over 250 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student members statewide, I ask for your support of HB145 sponsored by Representative Liz Snyder. HB 145, "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy," is the result of collaboration between AKPhA, the Alaska Board of Pharmacy, and the UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

Pharmacists, as one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, rapidly responded to address the healthcare needs of their communities during the coronavirus pandemic. From vaccinations and COVID testing, to educating the public, to telehealth, and assisting patients in managing chronic health conditions, pharmacists met the call. However, outdated statutes must be updated to ensure that these beneficial pharmacist-provided services can continue post-pandemic.

HB 145 will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can independently provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services.
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

The COVID pandemic has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply because of outdated statutes and regulations. We appreciate your support of this bill and helping pharmacists to continue to engage at a much higher level during and after this crisis for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Glaspy, Pharm.D., DPLA
President, Alaska Pharmacists Association

CC: Representative Calvin Schrage Representative James Kaufman Representative Liz Snyder
 Representative David Nelson Representative Ken McCarty Representative Geran Tarr

E-mail: akphrmcy@alaska.net

203 W. 15th Ave., Suite 100 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 563-8880 • (907) 563-7880



April 9, 2021

The Honorable Liz Snyder
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Snyder,

As director of the joint Doctor of Pharmacy Program of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and Idaho State University (ISU), I support passage of House Bill 145.

UAA's collaborative program graduates highly trained health professionals to provide health care services for Alaska. Our students' scope of training includes medication management, chronic disease treatment, health and wellness, and preventative services. Graduates are prepared to handle a variety of practice settings and specialties including primary care, critical care, emergency medicine, community pharmacy, and many others.

Alaska is no stranger to shortages in health care services. HB145 will, in part, help to alleviate these issues, particularly in the community and primary care settings of Alaska. Passage of HB 145 helps modernize Alaska's Pharmacy Practice Act will resolve long-standing regulatory issues that will allow more patients access to pharmacist healthcare services.

Sincerely,

Tom Wadsworth, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Dean for Alaska Programs
Associate Professor

The UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy program a collaborative program with Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health. The program located in Anchorage and is fully funded by student tuition with no specific contributions from the Alaska State General Fund.



Electronic Mail

April 8, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.liz.snyder@akleg.gov

Re: ASHNHA Supports HB 145

Representative Snyder,

The Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, home health and hospice agencies, and other health care providers. Our mission is to advance the shared interests of the health care industry to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.

ASHNHA supports your legislation concerning pharmacist services in Alaska. Like many of the health care heroes on the front lines during COVID-19, pharmacists have been acting with expanded authority to provide important health care services. This includes point-of-care testing, prescribing and administering the COVID-19 vaccine, and recommending therapeutic substitutions.

In collaboration with practitioners, pharmacists already provide patient care services for general health and wellness, disease prevention, and medication therapy, and ASHNHA appreciates that HB 145 formally recognizes these provisions of services and this provider type for reimbursement.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to partnering with you to solve this and the many other health care challenges facing Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, J.D., M.B.A.
President & CEO



April 5, 2021

The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce is writing to ask for your support of HB 145: Expand Pharmacist Authority.

Our local pharmacy is a family owned and operated business that serves the community in the heart of downtown Petersburg. The Pharmacy has been serving this community for over 50 years.

During the pandemic Petersburg Rexall enrolled to become a vaccine clinic to assist as backup up to the community's mass effort to vaccinate and assist where needed. Their business never closed for 1 day during the pandemic and during this time they have accommodated patients needing to get vaccines that could not be accessed at the local clinic.

Your support of HB145 will primarily help to bring pharmacy services to many rural and underserved areas and not just through emergency declarations, but long overdue statute update recognition and realization.

Secondly your support will allow the expansion of trained technicians to become a means of administering vaccines from Covid-19 to the flu through supervision and support.

In addition, your support will allow pharmacist to continue to provide the medication management services that they are trained to perform improving outcomes from diabetes to cardiovascular disease.

HB 145 will empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate, pharmacists, student pharmacists and support staff who are and hope to continue to provide these services.

This bill does not expand any existing services.

In closing, Petersburg Rexall provides local jobs, services and the accessible healthcare needed daily whether our community is facing a pandemic or not. We hope you will support this HB145.

Sincerely,

Petersburg Chamber Board, President Jim Floyd
Chamber Administrator, Mindy Lopez

Island Pharmacy
3526 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-6186
e-mail: island.pharm@juno.com

March 29, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder
State Capitol Room 421
RE: HB 145 Expand Pharmacists Authority

Dear Representative Snyder :

Thank you for sponsoring HB 145, Expand Pharmacists Authority. My family has been operating Island Pharmacy and providing *pharmacy* services in our area for over 47 years now. It is now time to update Alaska statutes to formally include *Pharmacists* in statute for services we are currently providing. Pharmacists at Island Pharmacy have provided over 1,000 Covid-19 doses and were recognized nationally in December for vaccinating assisted living residents the first week that vaccine was available. We are currently finishing up a major remodel so we can better provide *Pharmacist* services such as immunizations in the future.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for all Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, have rapidly responded to Alaskans' health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities by diligently ensuring residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

However, legislation is needed for these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services to continue beyond the pandemic. This bill will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can provide;
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services; and
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute). Our pharmacy is currently experiencing payment reimbursement issues related to administration of immunizations. In certain instances this may be due to lack of provider status.

The COVID experience has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simple because of outdated statutes and regulations. Our pharmacy and staff would appreciate your support of this legislation so we may continue to offer pharmacist services now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Barry Christensen, RPh/Owner

From: [Renee Robinson](#)
To: [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#)
Cc: [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#); [Nancy Davis](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of HB 145
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:15:28 AM
Attachments: [Robinson LOS HB 145.docx](#)

Dear Representative Snyder:

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. I have worked directly in my role as an Associate Professor at the UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy and Alaska Pharmacist Association (AKPhA) President Elect and AKPhA Task Force Chair to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Pharmacists and student pharmacists have helped make Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic. Since Fall 2020, student pharmacists, many of which I have personally supervised have volunteered to administer >750 flu vaccines to vulnerable Assisted Living Home residents, and >1,500 COVID-19 vaccines to Alaskan providers and elders.

We would like to continue providing these critical services when we graduate and thus are writing in support of HB-145: Expand Pharmacist Authority Bill to update the outdated pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. There is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy. The goal of HB-145 is to provide clarity to healthcare providers, healthcare systems, and insurers about the medical services pharmacists offer, serving to better align with other healthcare disciplines and the currently enacted insurance code.

Enacted changes will allow pharmacists and student pharmacists to engage at a much higher level both during and after the crisis, increasing access to vital healthcare in all settings in which pharmacists practice (e.g., community, hospital, tribal and federal facilities, and primary care clinics).

Thank you again for your service and support,
Renee Robinson

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Renee Robinson, PharmD, MPH, MSPharm
Associate Professor



[REDACTED]

Virtual Office Hours:

April 1, 2021

Representative Fields
State Capitol Room 24
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Fields:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. Pharmacists and student pharmacists participating in the Alaska COVID-19 response have worked diligently to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Over 100,000 Alaskans have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic; however, few know the role pharmacists have had in making this a reality. Over the past year pharmacists were mobilized across the state administering thousands of COVID point-of-care tests, flu and COVID vaccines across the state. Pharmacists in primary care clinics have provided hundreds of telehealth visits, helping patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc.) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet the needs.

During the Pandemic, pharmacists increased access to healthcare by providing COVID testing and vaccines; however, there is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services (i.e., disease state management for chronic diseases) to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. To ensure these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services continue, a few items need to be "cleaned-up" in current statutes. The purpose of this bill is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.

- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of pharmacist-provided patient care services. Note that pharmacists are the ONLY health care profession not covered in the state provider anti-discrimination statute.

The COVID experience has also shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Enacted changes will allow pharmacists to engage at a much higher level during and after the crisis. In addition, without these changes, I will be unable to sustain my clinical pharmacist position due to the absence of reimbursement for services rendered. I have and will continue to increase access to needed health services for our community, but only with the help of these legislative changes. I look forward to continue supporting the healthcare team at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Angela Mechelay Jaglowicz, Pharm.D. BCACP, CDCES

Clinical Pharmacist; Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program

Email: [REDACTED]

From: [Carlton, Callista](#)
To: [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Cc: [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [AKPhA](#)
Subject: Support for HB 145: Pharmacy Services
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 8:33:14 AM

Dear Labor and Commerce Committee,

This message is to ask for your support for HB 145: An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy and health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The purpose of HB145 is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

1. Clearly define patient care activities pharmacists may provide and empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate those services.
2. Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacy support staff more effectively.
3. Support reimbursement for health care services by clearly defining those services.
4. Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist.

As Pharmacy Clinical Director for Southcentral Foundation, I have the great privilege of working with some phenomenal pharmacists and technicians. Our primary care, integrated pharmacists offer in depth consults and medication training. Our tele-pharmacists navigate the challenges of remote healthcare and provide training and pharmaceutical services via PickPoint and mailing prescriptions. Even our central staffing pharmacists partner with outside programs like our homeless shelters and detox center to provide training, education and pharmacy services. During the pandemic, these services continued and additional priorities were added including supporting our mass vaccination clinic where we vaccinated up to 950 people per day. Pharmacists manned the vaccine station and consulted on vaccine questions. We also had seven pharmacy technicians step up and get vaccination certified so they could assist in the effort.

Pharmacists are valued contributors in healthcare and are providing quality services but have been unable to bill for these services. HB 145 will modernize the profession in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

Callista Carlton Pharm.D.
Clinical Director of Pharmacy
Southcentral Foundation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Margaret Soden](#)
To: [Rep. Adam Wool](#)
Cc: [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); Representative.KenMcCarty@akleg.gov; [Molly Gray](#)
Subject: Support for HB 145: Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy...
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:26:07 AM

Dear Representative Wool,

I am writing to ask your support for HB 145: "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy."

During this pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians really stepped up, took care of their patients, and efficiently got immunizations to Alaska residents all over the state. As a recently retired pharmacist who worked in clinic pharmacies in Fairbanks for almost 50 years, I couldn't be more proud of my fellow professionals! Alaska's DHSS temporarily modified the State Plan Amendment to authorize billing privileges for pharmacists for the health care services they provided during the pandemic. It is imperative that these modifications become permanent and that the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services provided by a pharmacist become permanent as well. I have seen many changes to my practice over the years. I served on the Board of Pharmacy for four. four year terms over my career and I know how important it is to empower the Board to regulate pharmacy services and more effectively regulate pharmacy support staff.

Thank you for your service in our legislature and I urge you to support HB 145.

Margaret Soden, RPh
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks Alaska

From: [Angela Jaglowicz](#)
To: [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Rep. Liz Snyder](#)
Subject: Support HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:57:15 AM
Attachments: [Letter of Support Spohnholz.pdf](#)

April 1, 2021

Representative Spohnholz
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Spohnholz:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. Pharmacists and student pharmacists participating in the Alaska COVID-19 response have worked diligently to ensure Alaskan residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated.

Over 100,000 Alaskans have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic; however, few know the role pharmacists have had in making this a reality. Over the past year pharmacists were mobilized across the state administering thousands of COVID point-of-care tests, flu and COVID vaccines across the state. Pharmacists in primary care clinics have provided hundreds of telehealth visits, helping patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc.) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet the needs.

During the Pandemic, pharmacists increased access to healthcare by providing COVID testing and vaccines; however, there is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services (i.e., disease state management for chronic diseases) to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. To ensure these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services continue, a few items need to be "cleaned-up" in current statutes. The purpose of this bill is to modernize the pharmacy practice statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of pharmacist-provided patient care services. Note that pharmacists are the ONLY health care profession not covered in the state provider anti-discrimination statute.

The COVID experience has also shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Enacted changes will allow pharmacists to engage at a much higher level during and after the crisis. In addition, without these changes, I will be unable to sustain my clinical pharmacist position due to the absence of reimbursement for services rendered. I have and will continue to increase access to needed health services for our community, but only with the help of these legislative changes. I look forward to continue supporting the healthcare team at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Angela Jaglowicz, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDCES
Clinical Pharmacist & Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center & UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program
Idaho State University College of Pharmacy

[Redacted signature and contact information]

Alliana Salanguit

From: Angela Jaglowicz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Rep. James Kaufman
Cc: akphrmcy@alaska.net; Rep. Liz Snyder
Subject: SUPPORT HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority
Attachments: Letter of Support Kaufman.pdf

April 1, 2021

Representative Kaufman
State Capitol Room 405
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Kaufman:

I am writing in support of HB 145 Expand Pharmacist Authority.

I am a clinical pharmacist practicing at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, where I work directly with primary care providers and patients to ensure medications contribute to the best possible health outcomes. I accomplish this objective by assisting our providers in managing medications for diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, to name a few. This service is invaluable to our providers, freeing up their busy schedules to provide healthcare services to more patients. I have provided care to the community members of the Anchorage Borough for the past 2 years. It is my hope to continue to provide these invaluable clinical services to our community members for many years to come.

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- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate patient care services pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff provide.
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Sincerely,

Angela Jaglowicz, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDCES
Clinical Pharmacist & Clinical Assistant Professor

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center & UAA/ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program
Idaho State University College of Pharmacy
physical:

[Redacted signature block]



Date: 4/1/21
Representative Snyder
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 145 - Expanded Pharmacist Authority Bill

Dear Representative Snyder:

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for ALL Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to rapidly respond to Alaskan's health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities. I have worked directly in my role as an Associate Professor at the UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy and Alaska Pharmacist Association (AKPhA) President Elect and AKPhA Task Force Chair to ensure Alaskan residents are *well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated*.

Pharmacists and student pharmacists have helped make Alaska the top state for delivered vaccines per capita and one of the safest states during the pandemic. Since Fall 2020, student pharmacists, many of which I have personally supervised have volunteered to administer >750 flu vaccines to vulnerable Assisted Living Home residents, and >1,500 COVID-19 vaccines to Alaskan providers and elders.

We would like to continue providing these critical services when we graduate and thus are writing in support of HB-145: Expand Pharmacist Authority Bill to update the outdated pharmacy practice statutes and insurance statutes. There is a need for legislation to allow this and other essential services to continue beyond the pandemic by updating pharmacy. The goal of HB-145 is to provide clarity to healthcare providers, healthcare systems, and insurers about the medical services pharmacists offer, serving to better align with other healthcare disciplines and the currently enacted insurance code.

Enacted changes will allow pharmacists and student pharmacists to engage at a much higher level both during and after the crisis, increasing access to vital healthcare in all settings in which pharmacists practice (e.g., community, hospital, tribal and federal facilities, and primary care clinics).

Thank you again for your service and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renee Robinson'.

Renee Robinson, PharmD, MPH, MSPHarm - Associate Professor, UAA/ISU College of Pharmacy
AKPhA President Elect, AKPhA Immunization Task Force Chair
James Kaufman, Representative; Roger Holland, Senator
reenerobinson@isu.edu

Alliana Salanguit

From: Margaret Soden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Rep. Adam Wool
Cc: Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. James Kaufman; Representative.KenMcCarty@akleg.gov; Molly Gray
Subject: Support for HB 145: Relating to the Practice of Pharmacy...

Dear Representative Wool,

I am writing to ask your support for HB 145: "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to health care services provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and relating to the practice of pharmacy."

During this pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians really stepped up, took care of their patients, and efficiently got immunizations to Alaska residents all over the state. As a recently retired pharmacist who worked in clinic pharmacies in Fairbanks for almost 50 years, I couldn't be more proud of my fellow professionals! Alaska's DHSS temporarily modified the State Plan Amendment to authorize billing privileges for pharmacists for the health care services they provided during the pandemic. It is imperative that these modifications become permanent and that the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services provided by a pharmacist become permanent as well. I have seen many changes to my practice over the years. I served on the Board of Pharmacy for four. four year terms over my career and I know how important it is to empower the Board to regulate pharmacy services and more effectively regulate pharmacy support staff.

Thank you for your service in our legislature and I urge you to support HB 145.

Margaret Soden, RPh
[REDACTED]

March 31, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB145 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Representative Snyder:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask for your support of HB145. I am an inpatient and consultant pharmacist. I have provided infusion and senior care pharmacy services to community members in Anchorage and Kotzebue for 14 years.

The coronavirus pandemic has required an all-hands-on-deck situation for all Alaska healthcare professionals. Pharmacists, one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, have rapidly responded to Alaskans' health needs in both urban and underserved rural communities by diligently ensuring residents are well-informed, have access to COVID testing, and are vaccinated. In addition, pharmacists have provided telehealth visits and helped patients manage their chronic health conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, etc) when many healthcare facilities were unable to meet these needs.

However, legislation is needed for these beneficial pharmacist-provided patient care services to continue beyond the pandemic. This bill will update pharmacy practice and insurance statutes to:

- Clearly define patient care services pharmacists and pharmacy support staff can independently provide;
- Empower the Board of Pharmacy to regulate pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy support staff who provide these services; and
- Update the current provider anti-discrimination statute to support insurance coverage of these patient care services when provided by a pharmacist (pharmacists are one of the only healthcare professionals not listed in this statute).

The COVID experience has shown that pharmacists have been underutilized simply as a result of outdated statutes and regulations. Please support this bill and help pharmacists continue to engage at a much higher level during and after this crisis for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Steve Schaber

