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April 20, 2021

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky, Co-Chair
House Health & Social Services Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: Support for HB 145, Expand Pharmacist Authority

On behalf of Foundation Health Partners and Denali Pharmacy we ask for your support of HB145. Located at FMH, Denali Pharmacy has a long history of providing patient services to the Fairbanks community. Those services include immunization, medication therapy management, medication reviews, drug information and ensuring patient medications are provided in a timely manner upon discharge.

During the coronavirus pandemic pharmacists were some of the most accessible healthcare professionals available to provide access to care. Throughout the pandemic, our pharmacists provided drug information, emergency prescriptions such as hypertension and diabetes, COVID testing and COVID vaccines in both urban and rural communities.

HB145 provides for pharmacist-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
- Continue collaborative practice agreements while allowing pharmacists to provide services for general health and wellness, disease prevention, and optimization of medication therapy independently.
- Clarify pharmacists' ability to prescribe vaccines and emergency medications.

The experience through COVID has shown that pharmacists are an integral part of the healthcare team and have been underutilized because of outdated statutes and regulations.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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelley Ebenal".

Shelley Ebenal, CEO
Foundation Health Partners

Cc: Legislative Interior Delegation