



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, &  
Economic Development

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing  
Board of Pharmacy

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February 25, 2022

The Honorable Andi Story  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol Room 403  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HB 306: Extend Board of Pharmacy

Dear Representative Story,

The Board of Pharmacy ("board") thanks you for your sponsorship of House Bill 306 to extend our regulatory body through June 30, 2028. Supporting this bill in turn supports our purpose to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the effective control of the practice of pharmacy. Since its last sunset bill, board actively took on several regulation projects in an ongoing effort to improve the practice of pharmacy and patient outcomes in the state, including:

- Implementing regulations for third-party logistics providers, outsourcing facilities, and third-party logistics providers to improve the safety of the drug supply chain.
- Expanding workforce capacity by creating new regulations and duties for pharmacy technicians who hold a national certification.
- Expanding the limitation on prescription supply days to ensure patients have an adequate supply of medication.
- Emergency regulations filed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing expanded shared pharmacy services functions and temporary pharmacy relocations without requiring a separate license, promoting continuation of medication therapy, and providing support to licensees on PREP Act inquiries.

The board also has several regulations projects pending, including:

- Military and emergency permits.
- Additional regulations related to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

Additionally, the pharmacy profession should continue to be regulated so the board can:

- Benefit Alaskans by promulgating regulations and enforcing regulations for operating pharmacies.
- Administer the PDMP regarding access to dispensing of controlled substances.
- Ensure the practice of pharmacy complies within state law.
- Participate in investigative matters to protect the profession and public.
- Participate in national association activities and collaborate with other state boards.
- Review state exam items regularly and ensure competent applicants can pass them to qualify for licensure.
- Ensure patients have safe and efficient access to medications.
- Ensure the practice of pharmacy is collaborative and cohesive.

Regulating the practice of pharmacy is integral to the safe and secure distribution of medication to patients in Alaska and is essential to contributing to a healthy economy. Passage of this bill will allow the board to continue advancing the profession and protecting consumers in Alaska.

Thank you,

  
Justin Ruffridge, PharmD (Chair)  
Alaska Board of Pharmacy