



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Neal Foster and the Honorable Kelly Merrick
Co-Chairs, Alaska House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 505 & 511
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Though the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was a well-intended statewide effort to address the Opioid Crisis, it is now time for a comprehensive evaluation of what the PDMP has accomplished in the past, where it is currently, and how can we take that information to improve the efficiency of this laudable endeavor which will promote the health and wellbeing of our communities and Alaskans as a whole.

Currently, the PDMP is locked into statute when the current reality of its application remains fluid. In order to begin this path forward one must understand how the PDMP works and what the current reality is in the world of controlled substance use. Every journey starts with a first step and that step requires educating those making the decisions as to the future of the PDMP with its structure and function – its successes and challenges.

The PDMP board chair group is a combination of chairs from the boards of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Optometry, Veterinary, and Pharmacy. We have been volunteering time in this vein of thought for many years. We have been engaging with stakeholders and discussing a uniform agreement. In order to move forward, this group suggests the first step is to convene a meeting of legislative members and the PDMP board chairs group in order to engage in this important discussion and move PDMP updates forward.

We hope to schedule a meeting with you soon but would request an advance notice if possible, to schedule our time appropriately. Should a more informal meeting be needed first, we meet every other Tuesday at 4:30pm and our next meeting is March 29th.

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