



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing
Board of Pharmacy

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March 20, 2023

The Honorable Senator Tobin
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Senator.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov

Re: SB 51 – Controlled Sub.Data; Exempt Veterinarians – Letter of Support

Dear Senator Tobin,

The Board of Pharmacy (“board”) is submitting its position on SB 51, an Act exempting controlled substances prescribed or dispensed by a veterinarian to treat an animal from the requirements of the controlled substance prescription database. During its March 20, 2023, meeting, the board reviewed SB 51 including previous board discussions related to this topic and voted to support it for the following reasons:

- Drug diversion from pets has not been an issue in Alaska;
- Requirements are burdensome in an already understaffed field; and
- Excusing veterinarians aligns better with the intent for the PDMP to function properly.

The board is aware that should this legislation pass, the Board of Veterinary Examiners intends to support efforts to continue to addressing the opioid crisis, including requiring opioid-specific continuing education of their licensees. Additionally, the board acknowledges the recently published independent analysis report of the Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and looks forward to the next step recommendation of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing convening a working group to review the analysis findings and prioritize future changes for improved effectiveness through a multi-perspective lens. The board supports this legislation and will continue to be a collaborative partner and resource for changes related to the PDMP.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ashley Schaber".

Ashley Schaber, PharmD, MBA, BCPS (Chair)
Alaska Board of Pharmacy