



# Why It Makes *Sense* to **EXEMPT VETERINARIANS** from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

**Vote YES** - HB 56 and SB 51

For More Information: Contact Dr. McKayla Dick [mdickval@gmail.com](mailto:mdickval@gmail.com) or Dr. Jim Delker [jddelker@aol.com](mailto:jddelker@aol.com)

## The Issue

Facing an unprecedented opioid crisis in 2016, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was amended in 2017 via HB 159 to include all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) holders, **including veterinarians**. The law requires veterinarians to query and/or report to the PDMP in some circumstances when prescribing, administering or directly dispensing certain controlled substances.

## The Problem

- The PDMP is designed for tracking human prescriptions, not animal prescriptions.
- The information from the PDMP is not useable by the veterinarian.
- Viewing a pet owner's prescription information in the PDMP raises privacy concerns.
- The system does not help identify diversion and abuse of drugs.
- Veterinary facilities lack standardized software that is used in human health care.



## Why Does an Exemption to the PDMP for Veterinarians Matter?

- ✓ The PDMP is not compatible with veterinary medicine. Querying of PDMP data for animals is not possible and reported drugs to the PDMP for an animal are not visible.
- ✓ Human data obtained from the PDMP query is unusable. Veterinarians are not trained in human medicine to understand what the dosages mean. PDMP query data will not impact the treatment of an animal.
- ✓ The PDMP has not proven to be effective for veterinarians in the protection of the public, increase the quality of care or efficiency of medical care or decrease costs. Viewing human data in the PDMP raises privacy concerns by clients.
- ✓ The PDMP is creating additional unnecessary and disproportionate business burdens for veterinarians with no identified benefit to the public.
- ✓ The Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners has reported that the PDMP is an unusable database and the cost to investigate veterinarians who fail to use the PDMP database correctly is a waste of limited resources. Investigative costs as a result of the PDMP have more than doubled investigative costs from FY 18-19 to FY 20-21.

## Veterinarians Have Not Been Shown to be a Significant Source for Diversion

- **33 other states have exemptions** of veterinarians from the PDMP—West Virginia was just added in 2021.
- Opioid medications prescribed by veterinarians were **only 0.34% of the total opioid prescriptions** that were dispensed by U.S. retail pharmacies in 2017. The heaviest veterinary **use of opiates is within the clinic setting** to deliver analgesia for surgical procedures.
- Veterinarians are monitored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and **already adhere** to controlled substance regulations.