



February 28, 2023

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Health and Social Services Committee

RE: SB51 Exempting Veterinarians from the PMP

Dear Committee Members,

Animal Policy Group represents over 85,000 veterinary professionals across the country, as well as leaders in animal health and pet care services. We have supported the legislature's previous attempts to exempt veterinarians from the PMP and we strongly encourage the 33rd legislature to complete this work by passing SB51.

We appreciate the work Alaska, and all states, has done to address the opioid epidemic. The creation of a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP/PMP) was a significant step in stopping people from using multiple practitioners to abuse opioids. With Missouri adopting a PMP bill in 2022, all states now have a way to track opioid prescriptions.

States are still struggling to get the PMPs fully implemented and continue to encounter issues on the human health side. The majority of states have elected not to include veterinarians in their PMP requirements, and a handful of states have recently removed veterinarians from their PMP. Alabama and Louisiana removed veterinarians in 2018, Illinois in 2019, and West Virginia in 2021. No state has added veterinarians to the PMP since they adopted their system.

The chance of humans abusing animal drugs is rather low and there have been no recent reports of such activity. The veterinary profession faces its own struggles complying with the PMP requirements, especially since veterinary medical systems are not tied to human health systems. Alaska is facing the same struggles faced in other states, and we encourage the legislature to follow suit by exempting veterinarians from the PMP until there is a more appropriate time for their inclusion.

We thank you for your time on this issue and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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