

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Sumner  
House Labor and Commerce  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, 120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 226, Prioritizing Patient Care

Chairman Sumner,

On behalf of the Denali Oncology Group (DOG), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 226, which seeks to regulate the harmful practices of "white bagging" and "brown bagging" policies employed by insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).

DOG is an organization whose primary mission is to promote, plan, support, represent, advocate for, and conduct educational, and scientific activities to facilitate improvements in the practice of oncology and the delivery of care to patients for the benefit of the citizens and residents of the State of Alaska.

White bagging and brown bagging policies require that patient medications be delivered through an insurer or PBM's designated specialty pharmacy, rather than allowing providers to acquire and dispense these medications directly. This can lead to many issues for patients and providers, including the improper delivery and storage of medication, delays in care, and medical waste.

We firmly believe that healthcare providers, in consultation with their patients, should maintain the ability to choose the most appropriate sources for obtaining and administering necessary medications. This is critical to ensuring the highest standards of care and safeguarding patient safety throughout the treatment process.

By preserving the ability of oncologists to manage the procurement and administration of medication through established and trusted channels, this legislation will help protect the well-being of cancer patients in Alaska and ensure they receive the highest quality of care in a timely manner. For these reasons, Denali Oncology Group asks the committee to pass HB 226.

Thank you for your consideration. For a more in-depth look at this issue, we invite you to review the Community Oncology Alliance's position statement on [White and Brown Bagging](#). If you have any follow up questions or would like assistance on any issue involving community oncology practices, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
**Tammy Thiel**  
Executive Director  
Denali Oncology Group