

PhARMACY

# Alaska Medical Center Pharmacies, Inc.

207 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Joy H. Donelson, R.Ph. Pres.  
Ralph W. Donelson, V. Pres.  
Marsha Holloman, R.Ph. Sect.  
Chas. Decker, R.Ph. Treas.



Lake Otis Pharmacy  
4050 Lake Otis  
Chas Decker Man

Medical Arts Pharmacy  
207 E. Northern Lights  
Joy Donelson, Mgr.

March 6, 1976

Sen. Frank Ferguson  
Room 109, Capitol  
Juneau, Ak.

Dear Sen. Ferguson,

In regard to the committee substitute for House Bill 575 which passed the House this week, we do not feel that this bill is in the best interests of the Alaskan consumers. We feel that the bill would create more problems than it would solve. Contrary to popular belief, pharmacy is not reaping huge profits at the consumers' expense. Pharmacists in this state do not earn as much in salary per hour as the lowest paid pipe line worker. We feel that purchasing prescription medication solely on the basis of the least expensive generic equivalent should not be the sole factor. As you can see from the enclosed literature, therapeutic equivalence is based on many factors.

The advertising and price posting clauses in the bill could force small, locally owned drug stores in the smaller communities in the state out of business. The large chain drug stores can take advantage of quantity buying and offer lower prices. If these small operations are forced out of business these small communities will then be left without pharmaceutical services not always offered by a large chain located many miles away. The people in Nome and Valdez still remember

# Alaska Medical Center Pharmacies, Inc.

207 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Joy H. Donelson, R.Ph. Pres.  
Ralph W. Donelson, V. Pres.  
Marsha Holloman, R.Ph. Sect.  
Chas. Decker, R.Ph. Treas.



Lake Otis Pharmacy  
4050 Lake Otis  
Chas Decker Man

Medical Arts Pharmacy  
207 E. Northern Lights  
Joy Donelson, Mgr.

how inconvenient it is to have their nearest drug store in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Advertising and price posting could also result in the purchase of large quantities of medications by the patient. All too often this practice leads to incorrect dosing by the patient and the use of the drug for persons other than the one for which the drug was prescribed. In other words, rather than waste the medication, the patient often "loans" his prescription to a friend who might have similar symptoms. Quite frankly, this practice is a nightmare for both physicians and pharmacists. Finally, we feel that advertising and price posting tend to call attention to the use of drugs at a time when we are trying to prevent drug abuse and its myriad of problems.

We feel that the people of Alaska are currently receiving excellent pharmaceutical services. Purchasing prescription medications solely on the basis of price will lead to the deterioration of these services. The Alaskan consumer is the one who will suffer from reduced pharmaceutical services. The patients who purchase their medications at our pharmacy have always been willing to pay for quality pharmaceutical services. We feel that this is the attitude of Alaskans in general. We feel that Alaskans will resent any attempt to sacrifice quality in their prescription services.

We further feel that our patients will object violently to any

# Alaska Medical Center Pharmacies, Inc.

207 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Joy H. Donelson, R.Ph. Pres.  
Ralph W. Donelson, V. Pres.  
Marsha Holloman, R.Ph. Sect.  
Chas. Decker, R.Ph. Treas.



Lake Otis Pharmacy  
4050 Lake Otis  
Chas Decker Man

Medical Arts Pharmacy  
207 E. Northern Lights  
Joy Donelson. Mgr.

attempt on our part to tamper with the medication prescribed by their physician, whether it be brand name or generic equivalent. Since the physician would be held responsible for any liability incurred from the use of that drug, we feel that the physician, and only the physician, should have the final choice in which drug he prescribes for his patient. When the physician writes a prescription, he should have every assurance that his patient will receive only that item and not a substitute.

Sincerely,

Joy H. Donelson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy H. Donelson".

Marsha S. Holloman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha S. Holloman".



## ALASKA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

March 31, 1976

The Honorable Frank R. Ferguson  
The State Senate  
Room 109, Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Ferguson:

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Pharmaceutical Association is of the opinion that a lay person (public member) does not have enough knowledge of the profession of pharmacy and its problems. The Board meets only three or four times a year and the lay person would just be getting the feel of the job when his term expires.

Sec. 4, 08.01.064 - Waiver of Educational Requirement for Admission to Examination for License to Practice Occupation. A waiver would completely eliminate Sec. 46, Sec. 08.80.110 - Qualifications for Registration. The qualifications for registration as now stated has been the result of hard work of pharmacy members over a period of years and a vote of Pharmaceutical Association members. We highly recommend that this be followed with no waivers. This waiver would set us back at least 20 years.

Removing control from the professional Boards, whose primary objective is to protect the people of the State of Alaska will undoubtedly deteriorate the quality of health care.

We believe that the reciprocity status now enjoyed by the pharmacists in Alaska may be jeopardized. Other states may discredit the Alaska pharmacists and refuse reciprocity because of this section regarding the Waiver of Educational Requirements.

Sec. 08.01.068 - License by Endorsement. Our standards of Pharmacy Education are much higher than in foreign countries. The quality of the profession would suffer. We believe that reciprocity with the other states is the only answer.

The other professions should have similar arguments and we believe they are justified.

Sincerely yours,

ALASKA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

Stanley P. Thompson, President

CAD/dd