

Dear Honorable Representative McCarthy,

I have been an Eagle River resident since the early 1990's. Since that time, I've been fortunate to serve my Eagle River neighbors as a veterinarian, working in local practices, caring for their beloved pets.

I am urging you to support **HB 91**, and exemption for veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. I'm enclosing a copy of the **white paper**, detailing the reasons that this program just does not work for monitoring veterinary controlled drug prescriptions. The paper is an excellent source of information. I'd like to highlight a few specific points that affect Alaskans every day.

One of the most concerning aspects of the PDMP's requirement for veterinarians is that we are invading our client's privacy. If I prescribe a controlled substance for a person's pet, I am required to access their private information online, to see what certain medications they are being prescribed. I must ask clients for their full name, date of birth, and address to look them up on the PDMP. Clients can find this intrusive.

I am qualified to practice veterinary medicine, not human medicine. There is no way for me to make medical judgements on the appropriateness of human medical prescriptions or the doses used. Some of the medications included on the PDMP might include Adderall, Ritalin, Anabolic Steroids and sex hormones (like testosterone), Xanax, Klonopin, Valium, Ativan, Domar, and sleep aids (like Ambien and Lunesta).

Moreover, there is no course of action that a veterinarian is supposed to take up if controlled drugs are noted on a person's prescription history.

Veterinarians already adhere to controlled drug regulations, through the Drug Enforcement Administration's requirements for record keeping.

The costs of monitoring veterinarians have been passed on to the Board of Veterinary Examiners. As the costs for the state Veterinary Board goes up, our licensing fees can be increased as well to offset costs. Alaska already has the highest licensing fees for veterinarians in the nation. This can be a factor that discourages veterinarians from wanting to work in Alaska, making it even more difficult for Alaskans to receive care for their pets/livestock. Higher administrative costs to small business owners like veterinarians can also lead to higher costs for Alaskans to receive quality veterinary services.

I care deeply about my Eagle River friends and neighbors, as well as all Alaskans. As a medical provider, it is important to me that the PDMP is used correctly to track trends of people's opioid shopping. I urge you to support HB 91 and join 34 other states that have exemptions for their veterinarians from participating in the PDMP.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorelei Hass