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January 23, 2022

Dear Representative Bart LeBon,

I am writing as a concerned veterinarian and practice owner regarding the HB 91. I believe Veterinarians should be exempt from the PDMP because the cost to enforce it will cause licensing fees to prove cost prohibitive.

Alaska already has the highest cost for veterinary licensing (\$1000 to get licensed and \$600/2years to keep licensed). On top of this is the cost for a DEA license of ~\$700/3 years.

The cost to investigate misuse is covered by the licensing board. This PDMP is VERY difficult to navigate and has the potential to further drive up licensing fees. Along with adding another stressor to an already very stressful career.

There is a shortage of veterinarians in Alaska as well as the US in general. With all the veterinarians working very hard to provide care to Alaska's pet and farm population, we are getting worn out and frustrated. The incredibly high licensing fees are certainly a deterrent to getting new vets to move to the state or provide relief work for existing practices.

Licensing fees aside I simply do not think this program is something that can be successfully applied to the veterinary field in general. There are too many variables with different owners and different pet names that the current system does not take into account. All it is currently doing is adding to our already high stress levels.

As the owner of the Interior Mobile Vet LLC, I urge you to vote YES on HB 91.

Please give the veterinary community a break.

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me with the contact information in the heading.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Annette Llanes, DVM