

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Representative Hopkins
State Capitol Room 434
Juneau AK, 99801-1185

RE: SB 132 - Exemption for veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Dear Representative Hopkins:

I am asking you to support for SB 132 – which exempts veterinarians from the requirements of the PDMP, the controlled substance prescription database. Requiring veterinarians to participate in the PDMP is nonsensical for numerous reasons. The current law is written for human medicine and is unusable, a violation of client privacy, and is a huge unnecessary burden to veterinary businesses.

The current law simply does not fit for veterinary businesses that deal with animals, not their human owners. Reporting drugs to the PDMP for animals (under a human name) is illogical. There is no 'fingerprint', ownership can change, it's an untraceable dog, not a human. This inappropriate inclusion of the veterinary industry does not fulfill the viable intent of the law and has cost small business owners, like myself, significant time and expense to try to decipher how to follow an inappropriate law.

As a medical provider it is important to me that the PDMP is used correctly to track trends of human's opioid shopping. **I urge you to support SB 132 and join 34 other states that have exemptions for their veterinarians from participating in the PDMP.** The exemption of veterinarians from the PDMP will increase the efficacy for the systems intended purpose, by allowing for accurate interpretation of data and trends in human medicine. A Veterinarian exemption will allow them to continue to provide appropriate care and medical management for their patients while eliminating additional business burdens and costs that do not provide an effective solution for the intended purposes of the PDMP.

Sincerely,



Tamara L. Rose, DVM

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