

Dear Representative Wool:

I am a veterinary assistant currently working at North Pole Veterinary Hospital. I would like to express my support for HB 91 to Exempt Veterinarians from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The PDMP was designed to combat the opioid crisis and while this is a great effort to better monitor drugs, it simply does not apply to veterinary medicine. Animals often change owners and there is no way to track medications prescribed to that specific animal.

Veterinarians have access to PDMP information that applies to owners and this can potentially violate privacy rights. Veterinarians are not trained on human medicine and they already adhere to DEA regulations. Implementing the PDMP will be costly to veterinary clinics and this will reflect on increased prices to clients. Increased prices can potentially interfere with the medical care given to the animal. Furthermore, the inability to track an animal throughout its life makes the PDMP useless and a waste of time and money for the state of Alaska.

Vote yes to HB 91.

Nelcy Evans