

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Senator Robert Myers

The Honorable Representative Mike Prax

RE: SB 132 and HB 91 - Exemption for veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

I have been in the veterinary field for 6 years and worked in the human field for 2 before becoming an LVT. My own brother has an addiction to drugs so I am very familiar with the nationwide crises we have on our hands; however, I firmly believe the veterinary field should be held exempt from PDMP.

PDMP does not work for pets. Each Pharmacy is putting pets in the system a different way, which may, or may not be associated with a human name. Dogs have multiple owners or are presented by a roommate, a teenager, a friend a house sitter and we don't have access to whoever's personal information the animal may have had a prescription under in the past. People make up pet's birthdays, they can easily change the name or birthday of the pet when presented or purposefully put the pet under someone else's name, they change owners. The person who presents the pet is not our patient so we do not want the break in confidentiality with their medical provider put on us, and as a patient on the human side I wouldn't want anyone other than my doctor knowing my medical information especially if it doesn't pertain to them.

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.

Searching the PDMP database by the owner could provide medical information the owner is uncomfortable with their veterinarian knowing-such as medications for mental health, sex change or sleeping medications. Secondly, veterinarians are not trained in human medication doses much like physicians are not trained in the dose ranges for dogs, cats, birds, elephants, etc.

The system is NOT useable for veterinarians and animals.

It is important to me that the PDMP is used correctly to track trends of humans' opioid shopping. 34 states have found exemption for their veterinarians from participating in the PDMP. The PDMP's intended purpose is for accurate interpretation of data and trends in human medicine. Veterinarian exemption will allow us to continue to provide appropriate care and medical management for our patients.

Vote YES to HB 91,

Victoria Yost, LVT