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February 22, 2022

The Honorable Representatives Spohnholz and Fields
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representatives Spohnholz and Fields,

We would like to share the positive development on HB 91. The Board of Pharmacy voiced its support of exempting veterinarians from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) during their February 18th, 2022 meeting. They join the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners, the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association, and a broad range of bipartisan supporters across the state in encouraging the legislature to pass HB 91.

The Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) Board respectfully requests another hearing on HB91. We are eager to discuss any remaining concerns and to address questions from the House Labor and Commerce Committee members.

We believe this bill represents good public policy that will contribute to more efficient operation of the PDMP for its intended purpose in human medicine while protecting private medical information. HB 91 will still require veterinary prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances to be monitored and regulated by the DEA, the Board of Veterinary Examiners, and professional ethics and guidelines. The AKVMA board is confident that any remaining concerns or questions regarding this bill can be addressed. We are available by phone, Zoom, email, or in-person at your convenience.

As time quickly moves through the legislative session, I urge you to consider this request to schedule a hearing in the House Labor and Commerce committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the work that you do, and the contributions that you make to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dr. McKayla Dick
Past-President of the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association
PDMP Co-Chair