

February 4, 2022

Dear Senator Holland and Representative Wool,

I am a board-certified pediatric physician in El Paso, Texas, and am writing this letter on the behalf of veterinarians who practice in Alaska. During a recent conversation, a young veterinarian friend of mine shared with me that veterinarians in Alaska are required to participate in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. I was shocked to learn this information since I know first-hand how burdensome this can be.


Researching this issue further, I found that this is not required by veterinarians in Texas nor is it in 33 other states. Some states that did require it have subsequently repealed the legislation. I know veterinarians must be licensed through the DEA already and I feel this is sufficient since they are not prescribing the drugs that are commonly abused to any significant degree anyway.

In thinking about the practicality of complying with the PCMP, I find it is untenable for veterinarians. Veterinarians prescribe medication for animals and do not routinely ask about the owner's medical history. Even if they did, the animal may have several owners, change owners, or live in an animal shelter.

Requiring participation in PDMP has resulted in higher fees to practice in Alaska, which already has a shortage of veterinarians.

I am urging you to vote Yes on SB 132 and HB 91 to exempt veterinarians from participating in PDMP.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Christine Smith, MD  
Westwind Pediatric Clinic  
7102 Westwind Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912  
915-241-5205