

Subject: HB - 91

Date: February 2, 2022 at 3:07:45 PM AKST

To: Representative.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov

Hello Representative Kaufman,

Several months ago I spoke to you at some length regarding HB-91 - Exemption for Veterinarians from Alaska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

As a citizen, constituent and veterinarian, I urge you to vote in SUPPORT of this legislation.

The PDMP does not make any sense for veterinarians. It is a program designed specifically for the human medical profession. In order for veterinarians to participate in this, we MUST have access to the medical records of the pet owners. I do not need or want to know that information. It's none of my business.

The PDMP is intended to prevent drug diversion. The reality is that drug diversion from veterinarians is an extremely rare event. The latest study performed to look at this found that veterinarians prescribe 0.3-1.0% of opioids. Here is the kicker - of that small amount of opioids dispensed, only 0.34% was diverted. Government has limited resources (at least it should!). It is really worth spending all the time and effort and money on the PDMP for veterinarians when the very best one can hope is to prevent the diversion of 0.34% of 1.0% of all prescribed opioids? I say that is a damn stupid way to spend my tax dollars and those of my fellow citizens.

Veterinarians are already monitored and controlled. In order to dispense opioids, veterinarians MUST have a DEA number and proper authorization. That system has been working famously for decades. Please let it keep working.

The PDMP is contributing to increases in veterinary professional licensing. Right now Alaska is amongst the highest if not THE highest in terms of professional licensing fees for veterinarians. If that only affected veterinarians, why would everyone else care? However, it affects every pet owner because veterinarians will increase fees to pay for licensing.

There are other reasons to support HB-91 but I know you have about 2.6 million more emails to read. You are welcome to call me any time to discuss.

Many thanks for your time!!

Nelson

Nelson H. Priddy II, DVM
Diplomate ACVS
Alaska Mobile Veterinary Surgery, LLC
1120 Huffman Rd., Ste. 24-257
Anchorage, AK 99515
www.alaskavetsurgery.com

(907) 350-4685