

To Senator Holland and Representative Wool,

I am Will McKenna, an obstetrician/gynecologist practicing in Fairbanks AK. I am writing this letter in support of SB 132 and HB 91, the Exemption of Veterinarians from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). As the owner of two dogs, I have been in and out of veterinary hospitals for wellness care, illnesses, and emergencies.

For starters, veterinarians see animals NOT people. I do not expect my veterinarian to investigate my medical records let alone medications prescribed in the PDMP. As an MD I find it alarming that veterinarians have access to the owners' records when they are not bound by HIPPA regulations. This violation of privacy is worrisome. In addition to privacy issues, I am not trained in animal dose ranges and if medications prescribed by the veterinarian are visible when querying the PDMP (data is often not visible due to the different systems) I am unable to interpret them in a meaningful fashion and I assume the veterinarian who is not trained in human medicine cannot interpret my medications either.

Second, what I can say from my personal experience is it that veterinarians require payment at the time of service. They don't have the luxury of billing insurance making them a difficult and unlikely route of diversion.

Third, veterinarians are overseen by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), their Board of Veterinary Examiners, and they work closely with their local Animal Control. Exempting them from the PDMP is simply removing a defective tool from the toolbox while they continue to adhere to a significant level of accountability, record keeping, and medical storage requirements.

Lastly, 34 states have exempted their veterinarians; this is clearly not an unreasonable ask. Exempting veterinarians from the PDMP will allow the PDMP to work as it was intended and remove the incumbrance that the PDMP has placed on their profession and their clients.

Sincerely,



J. William McKenna, MD

466 Slater Dr.

Fairbanks, AK 99701