

May 15, 2020

Ms. Laura Carrillo, Executive Administrator
Honorable Members of the Alaska Board of Pharmacy
Alaska Board of Pharmacy
P. O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806

Dear Ms. Carrillo and Members of the Board of Pharmacy,

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Alaska, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the time and work the Board has invested in re-writing the Board rules and, during this time of a global pandemic, issuing emergency rules to be made permanent, which will increase patient safety and access to needed prescriptions to Alaskans.

Members of NACDS in Alaska operate 62 pharmacies, employ 5,000 Alaska residents, and pay over \$8.9 million in state taxes. These pharmacies and their patient's will directly benefit from the changes you have made to the Pharmacy Practice Act, by freeing pharmacists up to perform more patient specific tasks directly with the patients and allowing technicians to perform non-judgmental tasks.

Alaska pharmacists are in a unique position to be hands on providers with patients, as well as react as necessary to emergencies such as COVID-19 by performing tests and when available, administering vaccines.

In the meantime, Alaska pharmacists keep patients' healthy through routine vaccines, drug utilization reviews, medication therapy management, medication synchronization and patient assessments of CLIA-waived tests.

We at NACDS applaud the progressive stance the Alaska Board of Pharmacy has taken in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and recognizes the emergency changes needed to made permanent. Again, thank you for all your time spent on these rules. We look forward to continuing work with the Board. If you have any questions, please contact State Director, Lis Houchen at lhouchen@nacds.org or (360) 480-6990.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Anderson, FASAE, CAE, IOM
President and Chief Executive Officer