



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

May 27, 2026

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Support for HB 195 to Strengthen Access to Pharmacy Care Services

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) writes in strong support of HB 195, important legislation that includes provisions expanding access to essential pharmacy-based healthcare services for the people of Alaska. By strengthening pharmacists' authority to provide services that promote general health and wellness, disease prevention, and test-and-treat services for common minor illnesses like influenza and strep throat, the bill would leverage Alaska's pharmacy providers to improve timely access to healthcare across the state. We respectfully urge you to sign HB 195 into law.

Importantly, HB 195 aligns with Alaska's broader efforts to strengthen rural healthcare delivery. The Alaska Department of Health is receiving more than \$270 million in federal funding for the state's federally approved Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which includes commitments to leverage pharmacists practicing at the top of their education and training to expand access to medication management, adherence support, substance use treatment assistance, disease-specific counseling, test-and-treat programs, and point-of-care testing and diagnostic services. Updating Alaska's pharmacy laws to enhance pharmacists' authority to deliver these services, including through passage of HB 195, will help connect Alaskans to needed care and help ensure this federal investment delivers meaningful, sustainable benefits statewide.

NACDS and our member companies operating in Alaska respectfully urge your support for this important policy change and ask that you sign HB 195 into law. If you have any questions or would welcome further discussion, please contact Mary Staples, NACDS Director of State Government Affairs, at mstaples@nacds.org.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Anderson, FASAE, CAE, IOM
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Chain Drug Stores

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NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 155,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion

prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 21 countries. Please visit [NACDS.org](https://www.nacds.org).