



Alaska State Legislature

Official Business, State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska, 99801

September 30, 2004

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Office of the Governor
Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Honorable Governor Murkowski,

With prescription drug costs consuming a larger and larger portion of Alaskans' and Alaska's business' pocketbooks each year, the time is now to take action to stem this hemorrhaging. Alaskans' budgets strain under the weight of health coverage, Alaskan businesses flounder under insurance premiums, and the State budget balloons with State employee and retirement health coverage. The time for action is now. We call on you to actively lead our state towards a change.

Specifically, we call on you to immediately take the following three actions.

Help Alaskans purchase safe prescriptions from Canada. The state should start today helping Alaskans purchase safe prescriptions from Canada. Web-based systems have helped hundreds of thousands in Minnesota, New Hampshire and Wisconsin.

Provide Prescription Access via Canada to State Employees. Provide prescription medication to the 14,500 permanent employees of the State of Alaska via Canadian purchase for a significant reduction to our state budget. A similar program in Minnesota will save \$1.4 million annually for the state and \$180/year for each employee.

Stand up to the Federal Government on purchasing prescriptions. Alaska has a great tradition standing up to the Federal government when it comes to what is best for Alaskans. Prescription drug coverage is no different. Stand up to the new Federal law prohibiting negotiating group pricing for Medicaid patients.

Nine other states have set the example for reducing prescription drug costs; the time for action in Alaska is now. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important opportunity for the welfare of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Senator Bettye Davis

Senator Gretchen Guess

Representative Eric Croft

Senator Johnny Ellis

Representative Ethan Berkowitz
