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March 16, 2017

The Honorable Merv Riepe
Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Nebraska Legislature
Room 1402
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: American Medical Association **support** for authorizing physicians to appoint delegates to access a prescription drug monitoring program

Dear Chairman Riepe:

On behalf of the physician and student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I write in **support** of the provisions in Legislative Bill (LB) 223 that would authorize physicians and other prescribers to authorize a delegate to access the state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). The AMA supports delegate access because it would help improve integration of the PDMP into physicians' workflow to help provide clinically relevant, reliable information at the point of care. This is the type of legislative enhancement to PDMPs that can increase the use of PDMPs by physicians and other health care professionals.

We specifically support that LB 223 puts the authority in the prescriber's purview to ensure that the appropriate individuals receive the authority to access the PDMP. Moreover, we support the provision that limits the delegate's authority for the purposes of – in the prescriber's case – accessing the information under the direct supervision of the prescriber. These are important safeguards to ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the information in the PDMP.

For the aforementioned reasons, we urge the Health and Human Services Committee to favorably report LB 223 to the full legislature. If you have any questions, please contact the AMA's Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: The Honorable Sara Howard
The Honorable John Kuehn
Nebraska Medical Association