



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org
t (312) 464-5000

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Katherine Clark
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clark:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express the AMA's support for H.R. 1375, the Prescriber Support Act of 2017. This bill would combat the opioid epidemic by authorizing a new public health grant program to establish comprehensive state-based resources for physicians and other prescribers to consult when treating patients with pain and identifying signs of substance misuse and substance use disorders.

The grants authorized under this legislation would be used to create a peer-to-peer consultation program that would enable prescribers to receive real-time expert consultation, both in person or remotely, with a pain or addiction specialist when treating patients. In addition the grant funding would enable prescribers to connect with community-based resources and services, including mental health and substance abuse resources, pain and addiction specialists, primary care resources, and support groups. These resources would provide another important tool to help physicians in taking care of their patients and in addressing the broader opioid epidemic. Combatting the nation's opioid epidemic is a top AMA priority, and your bill would add useful resources to this battle.

The AMA applauds your leadership in sponsoring this bill and other important opioid-related legislation in the last several years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD