



**ANDREW W. GURMAN, MD**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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February 20, 2018

Chief Jay Delaney  
Fire Chief  
Wilkes Barre Fire Department  
20-22 East Ross Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Dear Chief Delaney:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I want to thank you for your efforts to save lives due to opioid-related overdose. In reading this account—<https://www.timesleader.com/news/local/692922/luzerne-county-sees-elderly-pill-sellers-fueling-opioid-trade>—of your efforts that have led to saving more than 350 lives, it is a strong reminder of the incredible work our nation's first responders do every day.

For our part, the AMA urges physicians to co-prescribe naloxone to patients at risk of overdose, and we strongly support first responders in your efforts to carry and administer naloxone as one element to reverse the nation's opioid epidemic—a message I have personally delivered in my role as AMA President and a fellow Pennsylvanian. As you and your fellow firefighters know firsthand, naloxone may not be what ends the epidemic, but it is proven to save lives and give those who overdose a second chance at recovery.

If you have questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, at [daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org](mailto:daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4954. Thank you again for the work you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Gurman, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Andrew W. Gurman, MD

cc: Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Carl A. Sirio, MD