

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor
State of California
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: American Medical Association **support** for Assembly Bill 1048, an act in support of Partially Filling Schedule II Opioid Prescriptions

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA), and our physician and medical student members, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1048 (AB 1048) and urge you to sign it into law. This policy will be an important part of California's efforts to reverse opioid-related harms — adding to your ongoing efforts to reduce and remove unused or unwanted opioid analgesics and other Schedule II controlled substances from the supply chain.

The AMA supports AB 1048 as an important component in a comprehensive strategy to reduce opioid-related harms for several reasons, including that partial fill will:

- Help reduce the supply of Schedule II controlled substances that can be misused and diverted, which will help reduce prescription opioid-related overdose and death.
- Empower health care professionals — including pharmacists — to have meaningful discussions with patients about the expected duration of pain, and the risks and benefits of prescription opioids.
- Authorize patients to be able to request a lesser amount of a Schedule II controlled substance, which can help ensure that unwanted medications are not able to be diverted.
- Balance the important need to protect patients' access to legitimate pain relief with the societal interest in reducing unwanted and unused medications.

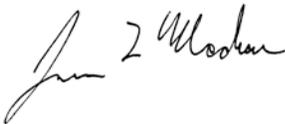
We also want to point out that California physicians already have made significant strides in making more judicious prescribing decisions. Data from Quintiles/IMS show that from 2013-2016, retail filled opioid prescriptions in California decreased more than 17 percent, and California has the lowest per-capita prescribing rate in the nation. AB 1048 will further complement this important trend.

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The AMA continues to work to end the nation's opioid epidemic, and we urge you to sign AB 1048 as one component of a broad, public health focus to help protect patients and reduce opioid-related harms.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Joaquin Arambula, MD
California Medical Association
Jack Resneck, Jr., MD
Ryan J. Ribeira, MD, MPH
Karthik V. Sarma, MS