

June 22, 2017

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, MD
California State Assembly
Capitol Office, Room 5155
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0031

Re: American Medical Association **support** for Assembly Bill 1048, an act in support of partially filling Schedule II opioid prescriptions

Dear Assemblyman Arambula:

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). This bill will be an important part of California's efforts to reverse opioid-related harms, and if enacted, California will be one of the first states in the nation to enact partial fill legislation as part of efforts to reduce unused or unwanted opioid analgesics and other Schedule II controlled substances from the supply chain.

Among the key reasons for the AMA support of AB 1048 are that first, 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. Partial fill also empowers 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. Partial fill also empowers 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. As such, partial fill legislation can be an important component of a state's strategy to end the opioid epidemic.

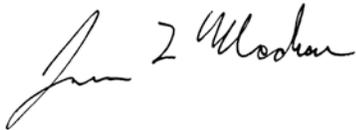
We also want to point out that California physicians already have made significant strides in making more judicious prescribing decisions. Data from Quintiles/IMS show that from 2013-2015, retail filled opioid prescriptions in California decreased more than 17 percent, and California has the lowest per-capita 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 commend your support for 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: Jack Resneck, Jr., MD
Ryan J. Ribeira, MD, MPH
Karthik V. Sarma, MS
California Medical Association