



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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February 23, 2015

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: American Medical Association **support for increasing access to naloxone** to help reduce death from overdose

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of several pieces of legislation that would, among other things, help save lives from overdose by increasing access to naloxone. The AMA has supported naloxone-related legislation and new laws in many states because it has no potential for abuse, and in the hands of trained health care professionals and others, naloxone saves lives. The AMA urges you to sign these important pieces of public health legislation.

The AMA notes that House Bill 1458, House Bill 1833 and Senate Bill 1186 each contain important provisions that would increase access to naloxone by law enforcement and first responders as well as provide common sense liability protections. In many states, hundreds of lives have been saved by law enforcement through the administration of naloxone. It is a medication that has no potential for abuse, can be easily administered, and is an important part of community, state and national overdose prevention efforts.

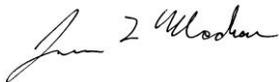
The provisions contained in these bills have received broad, national support from physicians and other health professionals who treat patients with substance use disorders, as well as law enforcement and other first responders, who often are the first people on the scene of an overdose. Approximately half of the states in the United States now have laws to increase access to naloxone, and Virginia's efforts continue the national momentum for every state to have such laws by the end of 2015.

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

Thank you for your leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Robert M. Wah, MD
Medical Society of Virginia