



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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January 26, 2016

The Honorable Adam Morfeld
Nebraska State Legislature
Room #1008
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: American Medical Association **support for Legislative Bill 980**, an act to provide Good Samaritan protections in cases of overdose

Dear Senator Morfeld:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of Legislative Bill (L.B.) 980 that seeks to provide important Good Samaritan protections to help save lives from the overdose of opioids. The AMA also supports L.B. 980 for its common sense liability protections for health care professionals and individuals who seek to help another individual at risk for – or who is experiencing an opioid overdose.

The most important reason for the AMA's support is that this legislation saves lives. During an overdose event, the person suffering the overdose needs immediate medical attention, which sometimes includes the immediate administration of naloxone or other life-saving medication. By providing key civil and criminal protections, this legislation will help those who are experiencing an overdose, bystanders who seek help and health care professionals who administer care.

Nationally, the AMA has endorsed state legislation to increase Good Samaritan protections in every state. More than half currently do. Our goal is for every state to have such protections, and we support L.B. 980 for the aforementioned reasons.

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 black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Nebraska Medical Association