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The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for S. 2578, the “Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016.” This important legislation would change existing controlled substances law to allow the partial filling of prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances if requested by a physician or patient.

In response to the nation’s opioid epidemic, the AMA is committing its resources to working with physicians and medical specialty societies across the country to identify ways to turn the tide in opioid misuse, addiction, overdoses, and deaths due to overdoses. Allowing physicians and patients to request partial fills will help to reduce the amount of opioid medications that are in distribution, thereby reducing the risk of overdose by patients and other family members in their homes and of diversion of such medications into the wider community.

We applaud your leadership in introducing S. 2578, and look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this important legislation, which will help save lives.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD