

Dear all:

We have just been notified that SB 81 will be heard tomorrow in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Unfortunately, to date, organized medicine has not been allowed to testify in any of the study committee hearings that eventually became SB 81. While MAG supports portions of SB 81, we have a number of problems which precludes MAG from supporting SB 81.

Had organized medicine been allowed to testify, we could have explained the challenges that physicians experience using the PDMP. Also, we could have offered solutions that utilize health information exchanges and the requirement that health insurers be required to pay for tamper resistant technology for opioid medication and other treatment modalities. Unfortunately, this bill does not address the full spectrum of solutions that are needed to address the opioid epidemic.

The problematic portions of SB 81 include the following:

SECTION 2-5: Requires a physician to review the PDMP whenever prescribing a Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substances for the first time and every day thereafter. The exception to checking the PDMP initially is limited to 3 day prescriptions. When prescribing a Schedule II, III, IV, and V for the first time, a physician may not prescribe more than a 5-day supply for adults and may not prescribe more than a 5-day supply to a minor ever. A physician may exceed the 5-day restriction if he/she believes it is medically necessary for palliative care or to treat a patient's acute medical condition, chronic pain, or pain associated with a cancer diagnosis. This section does NOT apply to controlled substances used specifically for the treatment of abuse or dependence on a Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance.

SECTION 2-6: Any prescriber who knowingly or intentionally fails to review the PDMP or knowingly and intentionally disregards the prescription information in the PDMP shall be guilty of a felony. The possible penalties are a \$50,000 fine and/or imprisonment of one to five years.

Please contact the following members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and ask them to do the following:

1. REMOVE SECTIONS 2-5 AND 2-6 OF THE SB 81.

The members of the committee and their phone numbers are as follows:

Names		Office Phone	Email	Office
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End the Surprise Insurance Gap <https://youtu.be/9euAeOm4b3g> via @YouTube

