



James L. Madara, MD
Executive Vice President, CEO

Amei
515 N. State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654

ama-assn.org
(p) 312.464.5000
(f) 312.464.4184

January 17, 2013

The Honorable Irene Aguilar, MD
Colorado State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 338
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Senate Bill 13-014

Dear Senator Aguilar:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of Senate Bill (S.B.) 13-014. This legislation would encourage the prescribing, dispensing and administration of opioid antagonists in an effort to reduce deaths from the overdose of opiates. The bill also would provide important liability protections to health care professionals and bystanders, including immunity from charges of unprofessional conduct against health care professionals who prescribe, dispense, administer or distribute opioid antagonists in good faith.

The AMA recognizes the great burden that opioid addiction and prescription drug abuse places on patients and society alike. We support S.B. 13-014 because of its clear language that encourages the provision of opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, in an effort to prevent opioid overdose fatalities. This is the type of legislation that will hopefully increase efforts to develop best practices and provide further support for community-based programs that offer overdose prevention services.

The AMA understands that S.B. 13-014 will not, by itself, solve all issues raised by Colorado's - or this nation's - prescription drug abuse and diversion crisis. It is, however, a promising tool to help communities prevent overdose fatalities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to 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 efforts on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara", is written over a printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Colorado Medical Society