



June 27, 2016

The Honorable Mike Shirkey, Chair  
Health Policy Committee  
Michigan Senate  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Senate Bill 1024 and Substitute for House Bill 5326

Dear Senator Shirkey:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) supports the passage of Senate Bill 1024. This bill would remove the December 31, 2016 sunset date currently in force which allows health care payment or benefit provider's access to the state electronic system for monitoring schedules 2-5 controlled substances. Removing this sunset provision will allow these entities to continue to ensure patient safety, reduce fraud and abuse, and also address misuse and diversion of opioids. However, if the Senate does not support removal of the sunset provision, we support the Substitute for House Bill 5326, that extends the sunset provision *through 2025*.

AMCP is a professional association of pharmacists and other practitioners, including 180 members in Michigan, who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy's nearly 8,000 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational, medication, and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

Pharmacists and prescribers are obligated to assure that prescriptions are dispensed for legitimate medical conditions. Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) make data available to qualified users to assist them in reducing and preventing the misuse, abuse and diversion of controlled substance prescriptions. Many inappropriate controlled substance prescriptions are purchased through cash-based transactions and not adjudicated to private insurance plans. Thus, health care payment or benefit providers may be unaware of information necessary to establish a basis for inappropriate utilization or abuse. Increasing access to PDMP databases will help reduce inappropriate utilization or abuse.

AMCP is concerned about limiting abuse and diversion of opioids. The improper use of opioids carries enormous social costs. This is especially critical considering the fact that the American Society of Addiction Medicine estimated in 2014 that over 18,600 Americans died from prescription painkiller overdoses. Extending health care payment or benefit providers access to data on controlled substance utilization will allow those entities to continue their efforts to provide adequate care for patients with an addiction.

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We therefore urge you to favorably report Senate Bill 1024. If you have any questions, you may contact our Michigan advocacy leader, Cheryl Kaltz at (586) 904-0820 or [cheryl.kaltz@att.net](mailto:cheryl.kaltz@att.net) or AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Regina Benjamin, at (703) 683-8416 or [rbenjamin@amcp.org](mailto:rbenjamin@amcp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer