

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



April 4, 2018

The Honorable Evan Low
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Michael D. Belote

**SUBJECT: AB 1751, AB 1752, AB 1753 (Low): CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: CURES
DATABASE – SUPPORT
ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE
SET FOR HEARING: APRIL 10, 2018**

Dennis K. Albiani

Dear Assemblymember Low:

Julianne A. Broyles

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) **SUPPORTS** your measures **AB 1751, AB 1752, and AB 1753**, as introduced January 3, 2018, which collectively work to reduce abuse, dependency and addiction to opioids, potentially saving health care costs and, more importantly, human lives.

Faith Lane

Dear Assemblymember Low:

Lexi Purich Howard

CAHU is proud to **SUPPORT** AB 1751 which would enhance the state's prescription drug monitoring program, Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES), to allow California's prescribers, dispensers, regulators, and law enforcement to share information across state lines to help curb the overprescribing of controlled substances and prevent unlawful "doctor shopping." CAHU is committed to seriously combating the urgent opioid crisis, and wholeheartedly supports this data-driven solution to prescription drug abuse.

CAHU **SUPPORTS** AB 1752 which would make much-needed improvements to current required data reporting to CURES by adding Schedule V controlled substances to ensure that all drugs containing opioids are appropriately tracked. The bill also helps prevent unlawful "doctor shopping" by providing prescribers with more real-time access to a patient's prescription history.

CAHU **SUPPORTS** AB 1753 which would significantly improve the state's ability to address fraudulent and stolen prescription pads, which contribute greatly to the growing opioid abuse crisis. Allowing the California Department of Justice to limit the number of Security Printers and requiring standard serialization across pad manufacturers will aid law enforcement in identifying criminal diversion of these pads, and ultimately prevent illegitimate and dangerous drug prescription.

CAHU is the state's largest association of health insurance agents, brokers and other health insurance industry professionals. Our members help millions of individual Californians and businesses evaluate, select, purchase and use their health care coverage plans, resulting in greater health and financial security—all at no cost to the consumer. CAHU agents and brokers also act as advocates for policyholders and their families year round to help them with questions or when coverage disputes arise. CAHU agents and brokers also perform many functions for small employers with respect to managing their employee benefits program--at no additional cost to the small employer.

Thank you for authoring this important legislation. CAHU is supportive of your coordinated efforts to curb opioid addiction and abuse and decrease the associated high costs of prescription drugs on healthcare premiums. We look forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT** of **AB 1751, 1752, 1753**.

Sincerely,

Faith Lane Borges

On behalf of the California Association of Health Underwriters

cc: Chair and Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Robert Sumner, Principal Consultant, Business and Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

925 L Street, Suite 1250 Sacramento, CA 95814

phone: (916) 441-5050 fax: (916) 441-5859 email: mail@caladvocates.com