



To: Members of the Ohio House Community & Family Advancement Committee

Fr: Tim Maglione, JD, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association  
Monica Hueckel, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Re: HB 535: Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act

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On behalf of the 12,000 physician, resident, and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), our organization **is writing to express support for HB 535, the Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act.**

HB 535 would require hospitals to submit certain data to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) concerning drug overdose cases. Each hospital would report monthly data concerning the number of overdose cases brought to the hospital and the outcomes of the treatment provided. The bill would also require that the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) report locations of overdoses and how many doses of naloxone were administered by emergency medical services if that data is available.

The OSMA welcomes this data sharing as a tool to help identify regions of the state where additional resources might be needed to help struggling communities. As Ohio continues to confront the drug abuse crisis, this data could be used to pinpoint localities that demonstrate troubling patterns of overdose, at which point the state could assess what further aid could be provided to these areas.

The bill also requires that information be entered in OARRS if naltrexone is dispensed or personally furnished to a patient. Clinical treatment decisions rely on a comprehensive picture of a patient's medical history, including any addiction or addiction treatment. The OSMA believes this OARRS requirement will empower physicians with critical information to help them make well-informed and individualized decisions about patient care.

Ohio physicians and the OSMA will work to continue the progress made in addressing drug abuse in our state. A newly-released report from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy determines that opioid prescribing has declined by nearly 30 percent from 2012 to 2017. Our organization believes that the provisions of HB 535 would supplement and enhance the ongoing efforts of the state to address the multifaceted problem of drug abuse.

The OSMA appreciates the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us with any questions you may have.