

# **Vote “NO” on Senate Bill 1607**

## **Ensure Coordinated Efforts and Effective Technology to Improve our Prescription Monitoring Program**

Senate Bill 1607 requires prescribers to check the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) before prescribing any Schedule II through V prescription drugs to a patient. These prescriptions include drugs like opioid narcotics, but also many other drugs, such as steroids and certain cough preparations. **Groups representing providers and dispensers respectfully request your “NO” vote on SB 1607, as this bill would mandate use of a system with limited technology, potentially impacting patient care.**

While Illinois was a leader in establishing one of the first PMPs in the United States, the technology associated with medical records has changed exponentially in the past decade alone. Our Illinois PMP remains a stand-alone website that has some technological challenges that complicate its usage and it is not integrated into all electronic health records. Illinois recently passed the *Heroin Crisis Act* in order to address the opioid epidemic and the increase in drug-related overdose. Included in that package were a number of provisions to improve the PMP and increase usage, such as mandatory enrollment of prescribers and dispensers in the PMP.

Even since the enactment of the *Heroin Crisis Act*, the regulatory landscape and technology involving PMPs continues to evolve. As such, the improvements to the PMP set forth in HB 1 have yet to be implemented and federal grant monies have created additional opportunities to improve our PMP.

Requiring in law a check of the PMP could shut down the system and prevent prescribers and dispensers from meeting the legal mandate in this bill, thus putting them in a situation where they are in violation of the law.

What we need moving forward is a coordinated approach on how to make the system better and more effective so all prescribers and dispensers are able to utilize the PMP to improve patient care.

**Please vote “NO” on SB 1607.**

**Senate Bill 1607 is opposed by the following groups:**

Illinois State Medical Society

Illinois Health and Hospital Association

Illinois Osteopathic Society

Illinois Pharmacists Association

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians

Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists

Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants

Illinois Psychiatric Society