



Oppose SB 3659

Efforts by Drug Company to Increase Profits by Legislating the Practice of Medicine

ISMS respectfully requests your no vote on SB 3659, a bill that would mandate that physicians offer a prescription for naloxone under certain circumstances, and require that physicians have specific conversations with not only patients but one or more individuals designated by the patients about addiction.

This is an **initiative of a drug company** that manufactures naloxone and is their **attempt to manipulate state law to increase their profits at the expense of the physician-patient relationship**. It is dangerous precedent to allow drug companies to pass laws that mandate how physicians treat their patients.

Further, this bill is **duplicative of current law** that allows pharmacists, under a standing order, to offer naloxone to any patient being dispensed an opioid.

This bill requires prescribers to educate individuals designated by the patient, **which creates an impossible mandate to meet**. The prescriber will then be sanctioned for situations well beyond his/her control.

Also, mandating that physicians have specific conversations with patients and their designee will mean that physicians will not have sufficient time to thoroughly discuss and treat the medical condition at hand because the time in a physician's office is so limited. **This will hurt patient care and do more harm than good.**

Physicians are well trained to identify patients who need a co-prescription for naloxone, and already co-prescribe for high risk patients. Some instances require the physician to not prescribe an opioid at all. Physicians, depending on their specialty, follow the hundreds of guidelines relating opioids that are currently prescribed to them.

Prescribers are required to complete three hours of CME specific to safe opioid prescribing, including awareness of co-prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines and co-prescribing opioids and naloxone, which will improve their ability to educate their patients about the dangers of opioids and related issues.

Allowing drug companies to pass laws and dictate how physicians practice medicine is dangerous policy and will only do more harm than good. **Please vote no on SB 3659.**