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August 12, 2016

Senator Ricardo Lara  
State Capitol 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 482—Support

Dear Sen. Lara:

We write to express our support for SB 482 and urge members of the Assembly to vote “AYE” when it comes before them. The bill will require all health care practitioners issuing Schedule II, III and IV drugs to consult California’s Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) before prescribing. SB 482 is an important step consistent with our members’ commitment to combatting prescription drug abuse in California.

The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) is a non-profit organization that collectively represents 33 large public and private employers dedicated to improving quality and affordability throughout the U.S. health system. Though we are a national organization, our roots in California are strong—and we are deeply knowledgeable and experienced in how care is financed, organized, and delivered in the state. Last year, our members spent more than \$12 billion dollars providing coverage to over three million California employees, retirees, and dependents.

The State Attorney General says that if doctors and pharmacists have access to controlled substance history information at the point of care, it will help them make better prescribing decisions and cut down on prescription drug abuse in California. The current voluntary approach has not been able to attract sufficient participation to make it effective. By consulting CURES, prescribers will be able to make informed decisions about their patient’s care and limit the number of people who doctor shop and overuse prescription drugs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislative effort to combat prescription drug abuse in the state of California. Please contact us should you require any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

David Lansky  
President and CEO  
Pacific Business Group on Health