



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Senate approves CAOC bill to cut “doctor shopping”

Life-saving legislation moves to state Assembly

**SACRAMENTO (May 28, 2015)** – A Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill to reduce dangerous “doctor shopping” in California was approved by the state Senate today, 28-11.

SB 482, authored by Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens), will require physicians to check the state’s existing CURES database of prescriptions before prescribing Schedule II or Schedule III narcotics to a patient for the first time. If treatment continues, additional checks of the database will be required annually. An upgrade of the CURES database is scheduled, and the requirement to check the database would begin when the upgrade has been verified as ready for use by the state Attorney General, whose office oversees CURES.

By checking the database, doctors will be able to verify that patients are not already receiving the drugs from another provider. Patients will still be able to receive the pain relief medications they are determined to need, but only in the appropriate quantity. In states that already require doctors to check similar databases, incidents of “doctor shopping” for multiple prescriptions have been reduced by as much as 75 percent.

“Prescription drug overdoses claim tens of thousands of lives every year,” Sen. Lara said while presenting the bill on the Senate floor. “This is a serious problem and we have the responsibility to do everything we can to keep Californians safe. We know that mandatory checks work and save lives. The current voluntary approach has not attracted enough participation to be truly effective. Ultimately this is about saving lives.”

SB 482 will now be considered by the state Assembly.

*Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs’ attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.*

### **For more information:**

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-669-7126, [jgpreston@caoc.org](mailto:jgpreston@caoc.org)  
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, [ebailey@caoc.org](mailto:ebailey@caoc.org)**