



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-backed bill to cut “doctor shopping” advances

SB 482 wins unanimous support in Assembly committee;
helps address prescription drug abuse epidemic

SACRAMENTO (June 14, 2016) – A Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill to reduce dangerous “doctor shopping” in California earned unanimous bipartisan support today. The vote in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee was 15-0, with one member absent.

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 potentially-addictive Schedule II, Schedule III or Schedule IV narcotics to a patient for the first time. If treatment continues, additional checks of the database will be required on a regular basis.

By checking the database, doctors will be able to verify that patients are not already receiving the drugs from another provider. 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.

Beginning next month California prescribers will be required to register to use the CURES database, but there is no requirement to actually consult the database before prescribing. Nearly two dozen states already have such a requirement, and the number is growing. Just this year lawmakers in Arizona, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina and Wisconsin have added or expanded requirements to check prescription databases, and similar legislation has been proposed in Alaska, Maryland and Virginia.

Dozens of people testified in support of SB 482 at today’s committee hearing, including parents and siblings of Californians who have died from opioid overdoses. The bill has a broad range of support, including the California Narcotic Officers Association (co-sponsor), California Chamber of Commerce, Consumer Federation of California and the California Police Chiefs Association.

SB 482 was approved by the California Senate in May 2015. The bill will next be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org**