



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC bill to cut “doctor shopping” advances

Life-saving legislation approved by state Senate committee

SACRAMENTO (April 27, 2015) – A Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill to reduce dangerous “doctor shopping” in California was passed out of the state Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee today.

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, with additional checks of the database required annually if treatment continues. The requirement would begin when the scheduled upgrade of the database 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 have 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.

Before today’s vote, committee members heard powerful testimony from Lisa Bond of San Diego, who said [her sister might be alive today](#), instead of dead from an overdose of drugs prescribed by nine different physicians, if her doctors had been required to check CURES. Also testifying in favor of the bill was Dr. Clark Smith, an addiction expert who [told San Diego’s NBC 7](#) “we would see tremendous progress in cutting back prescription drug dependence” if doctors were required to check CURES.

CAOC thanks Sen. Lara for his efforts to save lives. SB 482 will next be heard in the Senate 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:

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