

March 12, 2021

North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, NC

Dear _____,

The North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) and the physician and physician assistant specialty organizations who have signed this letter are **opposed** to **HB 93 – Require Naloxone with Opioid Scripts**, which would require our members to prescribe an opioid antagonist, such as Naloxone, when prescribing opioid medications for patients.

The Medical Society and the other specialty organizations oppose any mandate that limits or precludes prescriber discretion with regard to prescribing medications. We understand the importance of preventing opioid overdoses, and we share the goal that patients at risk of overdose should receive opioid antagonists. However, the decision to co-prescribe Naloxone should be one that is based on a prescriber's clinical judgment. It should not be one mandated by law. Physicians and physician assistants have the education and training, as well as an understanding of the medical histories of their patients, to determine whether an opioid antagonist is necessary.

Under this mandate, some patients will incur unnecessary prescription costs for a medication they likely will never need or use. Currently in North Carolina, there is a standing order in place that allows for any patient at any pharmacy to obtain naloxone without a prescription. We believe this standing order allows all North Carolinians to have easy access to naloxone.

As physician and physician assistant-member organizations, we welcome legislation aimed at opioid overdose prevention and will continue to work with the General Assembly on such legislation. Yet, we cannot support a bill that forecloses our members' discretion in determining what is in the best interest of their patients.

We look forward to working with you during this legislative session on health care policy that will continue to improve the lives of North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

North Carolina Medical Society

Specialty Societies

Carolinas Society of Clinical Endocrinologists

NC Academy of Family Physicians

NC Academy of Physician Assistants

NC Chapter of the American College of Physicians

North Carolina

Established 1849



Medical Society

Leadership in Medicine

NC Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
NC College of Emergency Physicians
NC Dermatology Association
NC Neurological Society
NC Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
NC Orthopedic Association
NC Osteopathic Medical Association
NC Pediatric Society
NC Psychiatric Association
NC Rheumatology Association
NC Society of Addiction Medicine
NC Society of Anesthesiologists
NC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
NC Society of Gastroenterology
NC Society of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery
NC Society of Pathologists
NC Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
NC Spine Society

County Medical Societies

Alamance County Medical Society
Cabarrus County Medical Society
Durham-Orange County Medical Society
Mecklenburg County Medical Society
Pitt County Medical Society
Sampson County Medical Society
New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society
Western Carolina Medical Society