



## COLORADO MEDICAL SOCIETY

"Advocating excellence in the profession of medicine."

March 29, 2018

House Health, Insurance & Environment Committee  
Honorable Ginal and Committee members,

The below Medical Societies are writing to you today to express our opposition to HB18-1279 and to ask for your "No" vote. The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee looked at the facts of electronic prescribing and concluded encouraging, but not mandating, its use for Colorado prescribers is the best course of action. To support HB18-1279 would be to violate the agreement that led physicians to participate in the Interim Study Committee in good faith and accept prescribing mandates.

Mandating E-prescribing is the wrong choice for patients and physicians for the following reasons:

- The patient loses control over the medication process. They become locked into medication, pharmacy, and price. Written prescriptions allow consumers to shop prices, as well as change pharmacies if theirs either does not carry or refuses to provide the necessary medication. Prescribers and patients alike have shared that electronic prescriptions make this difficult and time consuming.
- E-prescribing is expensive and often unrealistic for physicians and other prescribers. Its installation cost, yearly upkeep, and training costs make it prohibitive for many prescribers not backed by large networks. It is also inaccessible to rural physicians where broadband infrastructure simply does not exist.
- To mandate e-prescribing would be to choose out-of-state-owned chain pharmacies over Colorado licensed physicians.
- E-prescribing is not an effective solution to the opioid crisis, as illustrated by Minnesota, which has had mandatory e-prescribing since 2011 and whose opioid overdoses have increased by 11%.

We support continuing to incentivize e-prescribing, but it would be disastrous to mandate it and many small and rural practices, as well as practices that care for underserved communities, would suffer and so would their patients.

We therefore respectfully ask you to vote "No" on HB18-1279.

Sincerely,  
**Arapahoe-Douglas-Elbert Medical Society**  
**Colorado Medical Society**  
**Denver Medical Society**  
**Mesa County Medical Society**

**Clear Creek Valley Medical Society**  
**Delta County Medical Society**  
**El Paso County Medical Society**  
**Northern Colorado Medical Society**