



February 21, 2017

To: Representative Joe Schomacker and Members of the Health and Human Services Reform Committee

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the professional association for the more than 10,000 physicians, medical residents and medical students throughout Minnesota, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for House File 770, which will eliminate the Medicaid “buy and bill” requirement for practitioner-administered Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction. The MMA appreciates the work of Representative Baker to improve access to treatment for opioid addiction.

The MMA takes very seriously the significant personal and public health consequences associated with the use, abuse and diversion of opioids. The MMA recognizes the important role that treatment plays in the opioid epidemic, and is supportive of efforts that remove barriers faced by patients in accessing treatment for their opioid addiction. For those patients covered by Medicaid, the current “buy and bill” requirement for some opioid treatments can prove problematic for physicians, particularly for medications that are either used infrequently, have limited shelf-life, or have high acquisition costs. As we work to find ways to combat the opioid epidemic, the MMA supports efforts to remove barriers to treatment.

Thank you, again, for taking the steps necessary to improve access to physician-administered opioid treatment, and for ensuring that barriers that exist for Medicaid-covered patients seeking this type of treatment are eliminated.

Sincerely,

David Agerter, MD
President