



April 17, 2015

Dear Members of the Missouri General Assembly,

On behalf of the undersigned, the Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies (CEPOP) respectfully urges you to authorize a state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for Missouri during the 2015 legislative session.

CEPOP was formed to advocate for comprehensive and balanced public policy change that will help confront the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in our nation. We strongly believe that bringing the State of Missouri alongside all other states in the nation which already operate PDMPs would be an important step in this direction. We are encouraged by your efforts this year to accomplish this objective.

The facts are compelling that this is a national priority. An estimated 46 Americans die each day from a prescription drug overdose, most often involving an opioid medication. According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, Express Scripts found that the residents of eight neighboring states regularly travel into Missouri to fill their prescriptions suggesting a desire to avoid drug monitoring programs in their home areas.¹ As the only state in the country without a PDMP, Missouri remains vulnerable to a range of diversion tactics.

We are encouraged that, after years of debate, it appears that the Missouri legislature is on course to enact a PDMP measure. As you continue to move forward, we encourage that you include the following elements in final legislation to ensure that Missouri will have a secure and functional PDMP:

- Implement technological improvements to facilitate secure access to the PDMP through electronic health information systems as expeditiously as possible;
- Allow for record retention for a reasonable amount of time – preferably at least one year;
- Enable appropriate interstate sharing of PDMP data;
- Include confidentiality protections from improper use of the system or of PDMP data, including from inappropriate access under open public records laws; and
- Include penalties for knowingly disclosing, using or obtaining information other than as authorized by law.

¹ Alan Schwarz. "Missouri Alone in Resisting Prescription Drug Database." *New York Times*. 20 July 2014. Online.

In closing, we want to restate our strongly held view that the Missouri PDMP legislation will have a critical role in addressing prescription drug abuse in Missouri and the region. The time to act is now. Please let us know any way we can support your critical work.

Sincerely,

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Trust for America's Health
The Honorable Mary Bono
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Safety Council
American College of Preventive Medicine
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
AIT Labs
Shatterproof
Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association
Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
American Public Health Association
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
American Society for Pain Management Nursing