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April 20, 2015

Senator Jerry Hill  
Chair, Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 482 (Lara) Controlled substances: reporting - SUPPORT**

As Amended April 16, 2015

Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee – April 27, 2015

Dear Senator Hill:

The Consumer Federation of California (CFC) supports Senate Bill 482, authored by Senator Lara. This bill is set to be heard in the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee on April 27, 2015.

SB 482 would, with regard to certain controlled substances, require all prescribers and all dispensers, to consult a patient's electronic history in the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) database before prescribing or dispensing the controlled substance to a patient for the first time. California doctors and pharmacies are required to report to CURES, within seven days, every schedule II, III and IV drug prescription that is written.

CURES allows doctors and pharmacists make better prescribing decisions and cuts down on prescription drug abuse. Only 6% of California doctors now use CURES, even though the database has been operational since 2009. Prescription drug abuse is now at epidemic levels, causing 60% of the nation's more than 38,000 drug overdose deaths, according to Centers for Disease Control data. California alone sees about 4,000 annual deaths. Curbing prescription drug abuse and doctor shopping could save an estimated \$300 million annually for what is now spent by our state and local governments on prescription drugs for Medi-Cal patients.

I urge you to vote "yes" on SB 482. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Aaron Lewis, CFC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 498-9616.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober  
Executive Director

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee  
Senator Lara