



February 16, 2026

Dear Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

The Greater Louisville Medical Society (GLMS) **respectfully requests your co-sponsorship and support for HB153/SB82**. This important legislation would remove harmful regulatory barriers that unnecessarily limit access to the medication buprenorphine. As a result of these restrictions, too few patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) receive this life-saving medication in our Commonwealth.

The ongoing overdose crisis demands a bold response that utilizes all policy tools to support our families, friends, and communities. Buprenorphine is a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medication for the treatment of OUD and has been proven to significantly improve health outcomes for people with OUD. Specifically, buprenorphine treatment is associated with reduced overdose deaths and criminal activity. Further, evidence suggests that expanding access to this medication is a cost-effective strategy that would save both lives and taxpayer money.

Current state regulations, specifically 201 KAR 9:270, have been identified by subject matter experts as significant barriers that create environments unattractive to patients and clinicians alike. These regulations often conflict with accepted clinical standards and discourage practitioners from offering evidence-based care.

By enacting HB 153 / SB 82, the General Assembly will standardize the regulation of buprenorphine in the same manner as other Schedule III controlled substances. This common-sense effort simplifies our regulatory scheme and returns treatment decisions to the professional judgment of clinicians and their patients, protecting physicians who practice within established standards of care.

While some express concerns regarding diversion, evidence suggests that most people use diverted buprenorphine to self-treat withdrawal; in fact, overly strict regulations may actually increase diversion risk by limiting legitimate access.

HB153/SB82 is sensible legislation that would update flawed regulations and promote treatment, remission, and recovery for more Kentuckians. **We are proud to support this legislation and respectfully urge your co-sponsorship and support for its passage soon.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greater Louisville Medical Society (GLMS)