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June 16, 2020

The Honorable Rob Roberson, Chair
House Drug Policy Committee
PO Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Dear Chairman Roberson:

The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians represents 1,344 physicians, residents and students across the state of Mississippi.

Over the last three years, Mississippi has made great strides in curbing opioid addiction and reducing opioid prescribing. SB 2802 attempts to mandate e-prescribing for controlled substances. The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians does not support this legislation, because regulatory or mandated requirements should not jeopardize patient care or place unfunded mandates on the practicing physician, particularly those in private practice. While many physicians across the state have transitioned to electronic prescribing, numerous physicians do not have access to the technology needed, hardware, or certifications required for electronic prescriptions for controlled substances.

Patient care is a top priority for the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians, and this bill could put patients in a situation where they are unable to fill prescriptions for controlled substances or faced with finding alternative primary care providers who can comply with the electronic prescribing mandate. Not all provider networks and prescribers will have access to the technology and systems in place to accommodate this requirement. We understand the benefits of e-prescribing in helping reduce opioid abuse and fraud and are committed to working with all parties to ensure that physicians are doing their part to address the problem.

Sincerely,

William M. Grantham, MD
President

On behalf of MAFP Board of Directors

MISSION: Supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.