**PENNSYLVANIA
OSTEOPATHIC
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ASSOCIATION**

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September 29, 2021

The Honorable Tina Pickett
Chair, House Insurance Committee
315A Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

      Re: Oppose House Bill 1562

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSON ONLY

Dear Representative Pickett:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), I write in opposition to House Bill 1562, which would expand access to the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) to include Pennsylvania's health insurers. Pennsylvania's PDMP, ABC-MAP, currently permits the Medical Assistance Program, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) access to the PDMP to help curb fraud and identify patients in need of addiction services. POMA questions the need to add insurers to this list.

Pennsylvania's health insurers have an enormous amount of proprietary data, on the care and prescriptions of their contracted physicians and providers. Through this data, insurers already know their network provider prescribing habits and if they are meeting the metrics of what the insurer has defined as quality care. Insurers also use this data to tell providers what they can do, when they can do it and how much they will get paid. If there are prescribing outliers, insurers can use their data to refer potentially fraudulent activity of a physician or a patient to the Office of Attorney General, which lets law enforcement do its job and investigate.

Instead of unfettered access to the PDMP to see all patient and all provider data, POMA would rather see insurers concentrate their efforts on ways to expand access to, and cover the medical treatment needs of, patients with substance abuse related conditions.

POMA opposes House Bill 1562 and asks for your consideration in opposing it as well.

Sincerely,

Joseph M.P. Zawisza, DO
POMA President

CC: The Honorable, Anthony DeLuca, Democratic Chair
       Members, House Insurance Committee