

February 11, 2016

Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee
Utah Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah

Via email

RE: Support for HBs 192, 238 and 239

Committee Members:

The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) appreciates the opportunity share its support for HBs 192, 238 and 239 regarding opioid abuse.

We are the largest property/casualty insurance trade association in the country, serving regional and local mutual insurance companies on main streets across America as well as many of the country's largest national insurers. Over 1,300 NAMIC member companies serve more than 135 million auto, home and business policyholders and write more than \$196 billion in annual premiums, accounting for 50 percent of the automobile/homeowners market and 31 percent of the business insurance market. In Utah, we represent 149 insurers doing business in the state, comprising 43 percent of the marketplace.

I am sure you are well aware of the challenges that opioid abuse brings to many cities and towns in America. These bills are a step in the right direction. HBs 192 and 238 would authorize an overdose outreach provider to furnish an opiate antagonist without civil liability. These bills would also require an overdose outreach provider to furnish instruction on how to recognize and respond appropriately to an opiate-related drug overdose event. We believe these changes will make critical treatment available to more people suffering from an opioid addiction.

HB 239 would give opioid prescribers and pharmacists access to opioid prescription data in the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing's controlled substance database. This bill would give prescribers and pharmacists critical information in the effort to reduce opioid abuse. It would also provide for safeguards to protect database information.

I hope you will feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the first name 'Paul' and the last name 'Martin' written in a cursive style.

Paul Martin
Director – State Affairs
Southwest Region

CC: Reps. McKell and Moss