



June 24, 2022

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
1021 O St., Room 3320
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 852 (Wood): Electronic Prescriptions – SUPPORT
As amended June 23, 2022**

Dear Chair Roth:

The California Dental Association, representing 27,000 member dentists throughout the state, writes in strong support of AB 852 (Wood), due to recent amendments that allow for exceptions to e-prescribing requirements for health care practitioners who meet certain criteria. These reasonable exceptions and alternative oversight will ease the burden of mandated e-prescribing for providers, including many dentists, who write a limited number of prescriptions each year.

In 2018, AB 2789 (Wood) mandated dentists and other prescribing healthcare providers to have the capability to transmit electronic transmission prescriptions. While the intent for all practitioners to e-prescribe was a move in the right direction to address the opioid crisis by reducing prescription fraud and eliminating handwriting errors, many dental office electronic systems did not have the capability to e-prescribe. Since the mandate went into effect in January of this year, dentists have had to incorporate e-prescribing software into their office's overhead costs, often with a monthly subscription, even when they prescribe a very low volume of medication. For a dentist who writes only a handful of prescriptions a year, the subscription for e-prescribing software can cost the provider upwards of \$20 per prescription written.

AB 852's recent amendments will give health care practitioners more flexibility in complying with California's prescribing mandate. This bill would exempt low-volume prescribers, prescribers in areas of natural disasters, and prescribers who are granted a waiver based on extraordinary circumstances, so long as they

register annually with the Board of Pharmacy. These exemptions align with federal regulations to ease the strain COVID-19 has put on our health care system.

Due to the significant benefit that this e-prescribing alternative would have on dentists who write a limited number of prescriptions, **CDA supports AB 852 (Wood)**, and respectfully requests an AYE vote in the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please contact Jessica Moran, legislative advocate, at Jessica.Moran@cda.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Moran". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Jessica Moran
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and staff, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and
Economic Development
Dr. Jim Wood, author