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## **ARIZONA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS**

**Phoenix, AZ** – As the leading voice of medicine in this state, the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is committed to addressing the opioid epidemic. This public health crisis knows no boundaries and affects all walks of life. ArMA is committed to being part of the solution and helping promote policies that will attack this epidemic.

With this background in mind, ArMA is supportive of the Governor's legislation introduced today to combat the epidemic. ArMA remains committed to working with legislators and stakeholders to work through the bill language to ensure there are not unintended consequences to patients. Physicians want to ensure the safety and care of all patients who may be affected by this legislation, especially those needing addiction treatment, and those being treated for pain.

"Our priority in supporting this legislation is our patients. We want to be part of the solution individually and as a profession," said Michael Hamant, MD, president of the Arizona Medical Association.

ArMA recognizes this legislation is a first step regarding the opioid epidemic. Much work remains to be done to address the issues of the root causes of addiction, addiction treatment, treatment options for patients with legitimate pain, mental health care, and current capacity constraints that exist within Arizona's healthcare system. If this epidemic is not addressed in a multi-faceted, holistic approach, we will continue to see individuals dying from overdoses and other related addiction issues.

Traci Pritchard, MD, president-elect of ArMA, stated, "As physicians, we want to be the voice for change, to lead by example, and ensure that our patients can access the resources and treatment they need."

As an organization that is physician led and patient focused, ArMA remains committed to our mission of improving the health of Arizonans, and defending Arizona physicians' ability to practice medicine in the best interests of their patients.

### *About the Arizona Medical Association*

*The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of all physicians. For more than 125 years, ArMA has been advancing patient care and providing its members with leadership, advocacy, education, and networking. For more information, visit [www.azmed.org](http://www.azmed.org) and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*

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