



January 2, 2019

Dear Governor Parson:

We the undersigned Professional Public Health Organizations of the HealthierMO Project support your effort to pass a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) for the state of Missouri. We know that overdoses from prescription opioids are the driving factor in the 15-year increase in opioid overdose deaths. Research demonstrates that PDMPs serve an essential function in combating prescription drug abuse. The HealthierMO Professional Organizations support a statewide mandatory PDMP which would improve patient care and safety and reduce the abuse of controlled prescription drugs, specifically opioids.

The Professional Organizations specifically encourages Missouri to use and expand the existing St. Louis County program into a statewide mandatory PDMP. This program monitors the prescribing and dispensing of schedule II-IV controlled substances to assist in the identification and prevention of prescription drug misuse and abuse. The St. Louis County program was launched in early 2017 with 14 participating jurisdictions. Currently, 71 jurisdictions are participating in the PDMP, covering 84% of the state's population. A significant de-identified data set is available to build on, which is HIPAA-compliant and complies with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws. This data will improve controlled substance prescribing by providing critical information regarding a patient's controlled substance prescription history and reduce abuse and potential overdoses.

We look forward to working with you in improving public health throughout Missouri. Please contact us with any questions.

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