



December 14, 2015

The Honorable Richard Hudson
Member of Congress
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hudson:

Our undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for legislation you intend to sponsor which would ensure the continued ability of emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners in the field to administer controlled substances to countless individuals who are sick or injured enough to need them.

The unique nature of field EMS is unlike other health care services governed by the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). There is a demonstrated clinical need for administering controlled substance medications in the field, such as to treat active seizures or administer pain medicine. Updating the CSA to recognize the existing delivery model of field EMS is essential to protect patients. It will provide the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) a firm statutory foundation from which to oversee the use of controlled substances in field EMS and prevent drug diversion while ensuring essential medicines are provided to patients in need.

A critical component of your legislation specifically clarifies that the current practice of physician medical directors overseeing care provided in the field by paramedics and other EMS practitioners via "standing orders" is statutorily allowed and protected. The use of "standing orders" is necessary so that physician medical directors can establish these pre-set protocols which EMS practitioners follow in delivering field EMS care. When minutes count, "standing orders" are essential to enable EMS practitioners to immediately administer controlled substances on a timely basis and save lives. In the absence of standing orders, patients would not have access to the time-sensitive and potentially life-saving interventions they so desperately need.

We applaud your leadership on this vital issue and look forward to working with you and Congress to enact your proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

American Ambulance Association

American College of Emergency Physicians

Association of Air Medical Services

Association of Critical Care Transport

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

National Association of EMS Physicians

National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials