

November 14, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

Our organizations are pleased to share with you our strong support for H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016, as sponsored by Representatives Richard Hudson and G.K. Butterfield, and as reported out of the Energy & Commerce Committee.

H.R. 4365, as amended, provides a statutory framework that allows emergency medical services agencies, professionals and medical directors to fulfill their mission to save lives and alleviate pain while also enabling the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) appropriate oversight to prevent drug diversion. More specifically, H.R. 4365 will explicitly permit medical directors to issue standing orders to enable emergency medical services professionals to administer life-saving controlled substances to patients with emergency medical conditions. It will also clarify and codify who is authorized to provide verbal orders for controlled substances. It will provide the option for a single EMS agency registration as well as guidance and clarification regarding receipt, movement and storage of controlled substances for the EMS agency. It will provide the EMS community with a clear set of rules and DEA with auditable records and the necessary authority to prevent drug diversion. Most importantly, the legislation allows us to continue serving our vulnerable emergency medical patients and providing the best possible care to those who need immediate life-saving and pain medications.

We greatly appreciate the bipartisan leadership provided by the Energy & Commerce Committee to bring this bill forward on a consensus basis and for our steadfast champions, Representatives Hudson and Butterfield. We are truly grateful for your collective commitment to work on a bipartisan basis with stakeholders to arrive at the best policy and legislative text and to move the bill on a very timely basis.

Our organizations are united in strongly urging swift passage by the full House of Representatives. We thank you again for your bipartisan leadership to consider this vital legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the legislative process to secure final enactment in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

Air Medical Physician Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Association of Critical Care Transport
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Trauma Society
Association of Air Medical Services

Emergency Nurses Association
Epilepsy Foundation
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Association of EMS Physicians
International Association of Fire Chiefs
National Association of EMT's
National Association of State EMS Officials
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Paramedic Foundation

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member of the Energy & Commerce Committee
The Honorable Joe Pitts, Chairman of the Subcommittee of Health
The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee of Health
The Honorable Richard Hudson
The Honorable G. K. Butterfield