



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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The Honorable Katherine Clark
U.S. House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clark:

On behalf of the 9,000 fellows and members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I thank you for introducing HR 4599, the Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016 and we are pleased that it is scheduled to be marked up by the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee tomorrow. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are committed to helping solve America's prescription drug abuse epidemic while maintaining the ability to provide quality care and pain management for our patients.

The invasive nature of oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures requires that we manage and closely monitor our patients' post-surgical pain. Often, a short-term course of prescription opioids serves as the best option to provide relief for the acute pain resulting from these procedures. As providers who are committed to the safety of our patients, however, we also understand that every patient handles pain differently, a factor that determines the dosage and course of treatment prescribed for each individual patient.

HR 4599 would clarify federal law to allow providers to prescribe appropriate amounts of schedule II prescription opioids, while giving the provider and/or patient discretion to partially fill the prescription with the option to acquire the remaining amount only when necessary. We feel that this will not only reduce the chances of an overdose or addiction by the patient, but also significantly reduce the risk of diversion of unused medications.

HR 4599 also includes a requirement that the pharmacist notify the prescriber each time the patient fills the prescription. We share the concerns expressed by pharmacist and other prescriber organizations that the reporting requirements might prove onerous depending on how the requirement is implemented.

Overall, the AAOMS supports this important legislation which maintains the ability for providers to apply sound practitioner judgement when prescribing drugs for pain management. It is our hope that passage of HR 4599 will help facilitate the ability for interested states to pursue a partial fill prescribing option as part of their overall prescription drug abuse prevention efforts.

Thank you again for taking action to address there is anything the AAOMS can do to assist you on this issue, please contact Ms. Jeanne Tuerk of the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 847/233-4321, or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

Louis K. Rafetto, DMD
President

CC: The Honorable Joseph Pitts, Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health