



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the 9,000 fellows and members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I thank you for introducing S. 2578, the Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016. 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.

S. 2578 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.

It is AAOMS's understanding that several states have also expressed interest in this prescribing model as a means to combat abuse and diversion; however, because federal regulations are not clear regarding a pharmacy's ability to partially fill a schedule II controlled substance beyond instances in which the pharmacist is unable to provide the full supply of the drug, many states have been reluctant to move forward with such policy. It is our hope that passage of S. 2578 will encourage those states and others to include a partial fill prescribing option as part of their overall prescription drug abuse prevention efforts.

Thank you again for taking action to address this important issue, while maintaining the ability for providers to apply sound practitioner judgement when prescribing drugs for pain management. If 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