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RUSSELL R. LONSER, MD
Columbus, Ohio

October 15, 2015

The Honorable Pete Sessions
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2015

Dear Rep. Sessions,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we want to provide our support for H.R. 3014, the Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2015. The bill would authorize physicians, in agreement with the Attorney General, to transport controlled substances from one practice setting to another practice setting or disaster area.

As you know, the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 prohibits the transportation and storage of controlled substances away from the site of storage that is registered with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This makes it illegal for, among other things, athletic team doctors to transport a limited quantity of critical medications that might be needed for pain control or emergency management of life threatening medical problems when traveling with their teams. As neurosurgeons who serve as team physicians, this is highly problematic as we need the ability to maintain a limited supply of controlled substances for those instances where a player is injured during games that are away from home.

In emergencies or disasters when there is significant trauma it is critical that a physician have immediate access to controlled substances in order to adequately treat the patient. It should also be noted that these medications are registered and subject to inspection by the DEA at any time.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important bill, which will allow physicians to provide the highest level of appropriate medical care to athletes and others injured in a disaster area. We stand ready to help move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

H. Hunt Batjer, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Russell R. Lonser, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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