

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF  
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*President*  
H. HUNT BATJER, MD  
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October 15, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2015**

Gentlemen:

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.

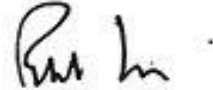
We urge you to pass this bill out of the Energy and Commerce Committee as soon as possible, and hope the House will take swift action so physicians will be able to provide the highest level of appropriate medical care to athletes and others injured in a disaster area.

Thank you for considering our comments. In the meantime, 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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