



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Richard Hudson
United States House of Representatives
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hudson:

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), which represents over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, I would like to express our support for H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016. The bill seeks to protect the current practice of physician Medical Directors overseeing care provided by paramedics and other emergency medical service practitioners via "standing orders" regarding use of controlled substances. Codifying the practice of "standing orders" by a physician Medical Director for the administration and delivery of controlled substances maintains physician oversight of medical decisions.

Furthermore, the bill makes the EMS Agency liable for the receiving, storing and tracking of controlled substances, similar to procedures in hospitals. These changes will ensure that patients have access to lifesaving medications in emergency situations.

Please feel free to contact Julia Williams, Senior Manager, AAOS Office of Government Relations, at (202) 548-4149 or JWilliams@AAOS.org if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David D. Teuscher, MD,
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Theodore Miclau, MD,
President
Orthopaedic Trauma Association

Cc: Karen Hackett, CAE, AAOS Chief Executive Officer
William Shaffer, MD, AAOS Medical Director