



The American Orthopaedic
Society for Sports Medicine



August 03, 2017

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, which represents more than 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, and the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, which represents over 3,000 sports medicine professionals, we are writing to urge your support of H.R. 1492, the Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2017. This noncontroversial and bipartisan bill was approved by the House under suspension of the rules on July 12 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 13. We ask that you move quickly to discharge H.R. 1492 from committee and support its swift passage in the Senate.

H.R. 1492 will allow traveling physicians, such as sports team doctors, to safely and legally transport controlled substances for up to 72 hours. Currently, 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 is especially problematic for athletic team physicians who 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.

The Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act provides the traveling physician with the tools they need to be able to appropriately manage the injury – short of surgery or hospitalization. These physicians need to be able to safely and securely prescribe and dispense controlled substances when medically appropriate. This legislation does not diminish the need or requirement for controlled substances to be monitored at the primary area of practice, nor does it limit the accountability of the physician. In fact, this will result in more accountability than current practice, thus decreasing the potential for abuse.

The Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act puts the patient's safety first, while providing the necessary oversight to ensure that physicians carry these substances securely and responsibly. Any questions about the bill can be directed to Jordan Vivian, AAOS Manager of Government Affairs at vivian@aaos.org or 202-548-4153. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of H.R. 1492.

Sincerely,

William J. Maloney, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Charles A. Bush-Joseph, MD
President
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine