



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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September 19, 2017

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
United States House of Representatives
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mullin,

On behalf of over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) commends you for introducing H.R. 3528, the *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act*.

As you know, the United States is in the midst of an epidemic of opioid drug use, misuse, and abuse. It is estimated that the United States consumes 80 percent of the global opioid supply.¹ According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), more than 50 million Americans were prescribed some type of narcotic pain medication in 2011, which represents a nearly 100 percent increase in narcotic pain medication prescriptions since 2008.²

The AAOS acknowledges this growing problem and believes that comprehensive reforms must be initiated with input and assistance from all stakeholders. This includes physicians and other prescribers. For these reasons, the AAOS has been working on a number of initiatives – from public service announcements to a pain relief toolkit – that aim to limit the quantity of opioids on the market and to encourage its members to practice safe and effective pain management and treatment.

The *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act* would aid orthopaedic surgeons in addressing this issue by requiring electronic prescriptions for controlled substances under Medicare Part D, including oxycodone, fentanyl, morphine, and hydrocodone. By requiring prescribers to use an online database where prescriptions are easily monitored and tracked, this bill could help eliminate doctor shopping and duplicative or fraudulent handwritten prescriptions that fuel the opioid epidemic.

Orthopaedic surgeons regularly prescribe controlled substances and most are already familiar with electronic prescribing practices. The AAOS strongly believes that electronic prescribing of medications promotes patient safety generally, and similarly, that patient safety will be enhanced if physicians and pharmacists are able to see all prescriptions filled in all states by a single patient. The AAOS commends the efforts put forth in this legislation to enhance patient safety and strengthen communication between doctors and patients. Please feel free to contact Catherine Boudreaux, AAOS Senior Manager of Government Relations (boudreaux@aaos.org), if you have any questions or if the AAOS can serve as a resource to you.

Sincerely,

William Maloney, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18443641>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18443641>