



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

October 5, 2007

The Honorable Michael J. Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rogers:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and its physician and medical student members, I am writing to express our support for the "National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007" (H.R. 2994). Although pain has been a major public health problem in our country for decades and a leading contributor to health care costs and a leading cause of disability, individuals suffering from pain often face significant barriers that can prevent proper assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of their pain. H.R. 2994 would provide a multi-pronged approach to comprehensively address many of these issues.

This legislation would direct much-needed federal efforts and resources to improving pain care research, professional and public education, training, outreach, and patient access to appropriate pain care services. Moreover, H.R. 2994 offers significant potential benefits to physicians practicing in many specialties and to their patients who suffer from a wide range of painful conditions. These provisions provide a blueprint for action to further the congressionally-declared Decade of Pain Control and Research, which runs through 2010.

Also, H.R. 2994 will go a long way towards raising awareness of pain as a significant public health problem and making pain care research, education, and treatment important national health care priorities. We are particularly supportive of the provisions in your legislation that highlight disparities in pain care specific to populations that are disproportionately under-treated for pain. The AMA is pleased to support your bill and offers our assistance in helping you as this legislation moves forward in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Maves", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA