



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

August 29, 2014

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Whitfield:

On behalf of the 115,900 physician and student members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), I write to thank you for introducing the *National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act* (HR 3528). The AAFP shares your commitment to promote policies that will both prevent the misuse of prescription drugs and allow for the appropriate, medically supervised treatment of debilitating, chronic pain in our patients. Family physicians recognize that the increase in nonmedical use of prescription drugs is a serious public health problem, and the AAFP is actively working toward a solution to address the abuse of pain management pharmaceuticals including opioids.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) published a position paper, "[Pain Management and Opioid Abuse: A Public Health Concern](#)." In that paper, we specifically recommend that all states should implement prescription drug monitoring programs and the interstate exchange of registry information as called for under the *National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Act* of 2005. For that reason, we are pleased to support your legislation to reauthorize this vital program.

We appreciate your continuing leadership in this important public health initiative and look forward to working with you on addressing the problem of prescription drug abuse. If you have any questions about this material or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Teresa Baker, Senior Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or tbaker@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAFPP
President

President

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD
Kingsport, TN

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