

Consensus Statement Supporting the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007

Pain touches every member of our society at some point in life. The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that 76.2 million one in every four Americans have suffered from pain that lasts longer than 24 hours; millions more suffer from acute pain. Left untreated, pain can rob quality of life and affect every aspect of daily living, including work, sleep, and social relations.

NOW is the time to educate healthcare professionals, people in pain and their loved ones, as well as the general public about the importance of achieving appropriate pain assessment and management and addressing the barriers that prevent pain control in every instance, particularly among minority and other medically underserved populations, and to coordinate research on the causes of pain and development of improved therapies to manage it adequately.

As members and representatives of the pain care community, the undersigned organizations support and urge passage of the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007, which includes the following four actions:

1. Convene an Institute of Medicine Conference on Pain Care, with a Report Summarizing Findings and Recommendations;
2. Authorize a Permanent Pain Consortium at the National Institutes of Health to Coordinate Pain Research Across Institutes and Centers;
3. Create an Education and Training Grant Program to Improve Health Professionals' Understanding and Ability to Assess and Appropriately Treat Pain; and
4. Develop and Implement a National Pain Management Public Outreach and Awareness Campaign.

Signed,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention
Alliance of State Pain Initiatives
American Academy of Pain Management
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Cancer Society

American Chronic Pain Association
American Headache Society
American Pain Foundation
American Pain Society
American Pharmacists Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Pain Management Nursing
American Society of Pain Management Nursing-St. Louis Chapter
Arizona Pain Initiative
Bombobeach.com Adhesions Support Group
Boston Scientific
California Coalition for Compassionate Care
Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care
Center for Practical Bioethics
Central MA Partnership to Improve End of Life Care
Cephalon, Inc.
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Colorado Pain Consortium/Initiative
Comfort Care Unlimited
Compassion and Choices
Connecticut Cancer Pain Initiative
DC Pain Initiative
Delaware Pain Initiative
Ehlers Danlos National Foundation
Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Florida Pain Initiative
For Grace
Froedtert Hospital Palliative Care Program
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Idaho Pain Coalition
Illinois Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Illinois Nurses Association

Illinois Pain Initiative
Indiana Pain Initiative
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
Kansas LIFE Project
Kansas Pain Initiative
Lance Armstrong Foundation
Lindsay Wurtenberg RSD Foundation
MAGNUM: The National Migraine Association
Maine Pain Initiative
Maryland Pain Initiative
Massachusetts Pain Initiative
Master of Science in Pain Research, Education and Policy at Tufts
Medtronic, Inc.
Michigan Cancer Pain Initiative
Missouri End-of-Life Coalition
Missouri Pain Initiative
Mountains of Hope Cancer Coalition
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term-Care Ombudsman Programs
National Fibromyalgia Association
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc.
National Pain Foundation
National Vulvodynia Association
Native American Cancer Research
New Hampshire Pain Initiative
New Jersey Pain Initiative
New Mexico Pain Initiative
New York State Pain Initiative
Northern California Pain Initiative
North Carolina Pain Initiative
Oncology Nursing Society

Oregon Pain Management Commission
Pain and Policy Studies Group
Pain Care Coalition
Palliative Care Institute of Southeast Louisiana
Pennsylvania Cancer Pain Initiative
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Purdue Pharma L.P.
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association of America
Salford Health Informatics Research Environment (SHIRE)
South Carolina Pain Initiative
Southern California Cancer Pain Initiative
South Dakota Injured Workers Coalition
There is Hope
USU Center for Health Disparities Research and Education
Virginia Cancer Pain Initiative
Washington Alaska Pain Initiative
West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care
West Virginia Pain Initiative
Whittingham Cancer Center
Wisconsin Pain Initiative