



American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 200 phone 847/737.6000  
Rosemont, Illinois 60018 fax 847/754.4368  
www.aapmr.org info@aapmr.org

- President  
Kathleen R. Bell, MD
- President-Elect  
Gregory M. Worsowicz, MD, MBA
- Vice-President  
Steve R. Geiringer, MD
- Secretary  
Darryl L. Kaelin, MD
- Treasurer  
David G. Welch, MD
- Past President  
Kurt M. Hoppe, MD
- Members-at-Large  
Larry H. Chou, MD  
Jonathan Finnoff, DO  
Heikki Uustal, MD  
Sam S. Wu, MD MA MPH MBA
- Strategic Coordinating  
Committee Chairs
- Medical Education  
Michelle S. Gittler, MD
- Membership  
Michael Saffir, MD
- Public and Professional Awareness  
Stuart J. Glassman, MD
- Quality Policy Practice and Research  
Peter C. Esselman, MD
- Ex-officio Liaisons:  
Resident Physician Council President  
Elizabeth Martin, MD, MPH, MHS
- AMA Delegate  
Leon Reinstein, MD
- PM&R, Editor in Chief  
Stuart M. Weinstein, MD
- Executive Director  
Thomas E. Stautzenbach, CAE

**VIA OVERNIGHT AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 606, Health Insurance – Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics Drug Products Coverage**

Dear Senator Middleton:

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) is the national medical society representing more than 8,000 physiatrists, physicians who are specialists in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Physiatrists treat adults and children with acute and chronic pain, persons who have experienced catastrophic events resulting in paraplegia, quadriplegia, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, limb amputations, rheumatologic conditions, musculoskeletal injuries, and individuals with neurologic disorders or any other disease process that results in impairment and/or disability.

The Academy acknowledges that Maryland, like all states, is facing a serious public health problem surrounding the use of opioids. According to a March 2 New York Times article, opioid-related deaths have more than tripled from 1999-2012. Our physiatrist members understand these concerns as they too strive to protect the health and safety of all patients.

On behalf of the Academy and as a concerned Maryland resident, I write to encourage your support of Senate Bill 606, “Health Insurance – Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics Drug Products Coverage.” The bill will be discussed on March 4, 2015, and calls for requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug products. This legislation is consistent with recommendations the Academy has made on this issue, including language in the attached position statement indicating that “medications that contain abuse-deterrent formulas [should] be utilized for treatment when possible.”

I hope you will respond favorably to this bill. Should you have any questions, please contact Melanie Dolak, Associate Executive Director, Health Policy and Practice Services at: [mdolak@aapmr.org](mailto:mdolak@aapmr.org) or 847-737-6020.





9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 200    phone 847/737.6000  
Rosemont, Illinois 60018            fax 847/754.4368  
www.aapmr.org                            info@aapmr.org

**President**  
Kathleen R. Bell, MD

**President-Elect**  
Gregory M. Worsowicz, MD, MBA

**Vice-President**  
Steve R. Geiringer, MD

**Secretary**  
Darryl L. Kaelin, MD

**Treasurer**  
David G. Welch, MD

**Past President**  
Kurt M. Hoppe, MD

**Members-at-Large**  
Larry H. Chou, MD  
Jonathan Finnoff, DO  
Heikki Uustal, MD  
Sam S. Wu, MD MA MPH MBA

**Strategic Coordinating  
Committee Chairs**

**Medical Education**  
Michelle S. Gittler, MD

**Membership**  
Michael Saffir, MD

**Public and Professional Awareness**  
Stuart J. Glassman, MD

**Quality Policy Practice and Research**  
Peter C. Esselman, MD

**Ex-officio Liaisons:**

**Resident Physician Council President**  
Elizabeth Martin, MD, MPH, MHS

**AMA Delegate**  
Leon Reinstein, MD

**PM&R, Editor in Chief**  
Stuart M. Weinstein, MD

**Executive Director**  
Thomas E. Stautzenbach, CAE

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leon Reinstein, MD  
Member, AAPM&R Health Policy and Legislation Committee  
Attending Physician, Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Enclosure: AAPM&R Position Statement on Opioid Prescribing

CC: The Honorable Catherine E. Pugh, Sponsor  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
Scott Laker, MD, Chair, Health Policy and Legislation Committee

