

January 12, 2016

Hon. Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Hon. Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (Executive Committee), I strongly urge the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) to pass H.R. 1725, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Reauthorization Act of 2015.

NASCSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose members regulate controlled substance prescriptions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. A majority of our members oversee and operate state prescription drug monitoring programs (state PMPs). We strive on a daily basis to guard the public from the socially and economically devastating consequences of prescription drug misuse, abuse and diversion. We know firsthand how critical state PMPs are to the protection of public health and safety.

Congress' long history of appropriating funding for state PMPs has helped transform the programs into increasingly more effective public health and safety tools. An important next step in facilitating the transformation is passage of H.R. 1725. With NASPER grants, the national network of state PMP Administrators can make state PMP data even more actionable for health care practitioners – easy to access and apply at the point-of-care.

Like the HELP Committee, NASCSA has publicly supported the use of state PMPs for public health purposes. NASCSA members have promoted the interoperability and integration of PMP data and encouraged use of the programs by pharmacists and prescribers (See attachment).

The Executive Committee asks the HELP Committee to build on its 2015 public health accomplishments by passing H.R. 1725, one of the most important public health initiatives that Congress can support in 2016.

A member of the Executive Committee, Barbara Carter, will follow up with the HELP Committee's staff to answer any questions about the endorsement of the NASPER Reauthorization Act of 2015. Ms. Carter is the state PMP Program Manager with the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and a leader in the national network of state PMP Administrators (national

network). She will also share with the HELP Committee's staff the latest details of the upcoming PMP initiatives of NASCSA and the national network designed to foster uniformity and consistency.

To learn more about NASCSA and the activities of state controlled substances authorities, please contact the organization's Executive Director, Kathy Keough. Ms. Keough may be reached by phone at 617-472-0520, or by email at Kathykeough@nascsa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Dryden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David W. Dryden, R.Ph., J.D.
President
NASCSA

ATTACHMENT

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
AUTHORITIES (NASCSA)**

**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS REGARDING
STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS**

2015

- Encouraging Pharmacist Access to and Utilization of Prescription Monitoring Programs (2015-02)
- Encouraging Prescriber Access to and Utilization of Prescription Monitoring Programs (2015-03)

2013

- Encouraging Jurisdictions To Adopt Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs That Incorporate Interoperability Of Data (2013-02)
- Encouraging Jurisdictions To Adopt Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs That Utilize Health Information Technology For Integration With Health System Applications, Pharmacy Software Applications And Health Information Exchanges (2013-03)



National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2015-02

October 2015

Scottsdale, Arizona

A Resolution Encouraging Pharmacist Access to and Utilization of Prescription Monitoring Programs

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse has grown to epidemic proportions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the prescription drug abuse epidemic has led to an increase in unintentional drug overdose death rates in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the pharmacist plays a major role in preventing prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the chances of identifying prescription drug abuse can be greatly increased when the pharmacist accesses available prescription monitoring program (PMP) data and utilizes it to identify potential drug seeking behavior by a patient; and

WHEREAS, experts have identified situations where a pharmacist should access and use PMP data; such situations include but are not limited to the following:

- The patient is receiving controlled substance prescriptions from multiple prescribers and/or pharmacies;
- The patient is receiving controlled substance prescriptions for more than 12 consecutive weeks;
- The patient is abusing or misusing controlled substances (for example, the pharmacist identifies overutilization of the medication or that the patient is seeking early refills, or observes that the patient appears overly sedated or intoxicated upon presenting a controlled substance prescription);
- The patient is presenting a controlled substance prescription issued by a prescriber with whom the pharmacist is unfamiliar (for example, the prescriber is located out of state or outside of the usual geographic area served by the pharmacy); or
- The patient is presenting a controlled substance prescription and resides outside the usual geographic area served by the pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, a best practices guide that identifies situations where a pharmacist should access and use PMP data could be a valuable tool to assist in identifying prescription drug abuse;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NASCSA collaborate with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to develop a best practices guide addressing when pharmacists should access and use PMP data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA encourage state boards of pharmacy to distribute such a best practices guide to its licensees as a tool to educate pharmacists on the use of PMP data in preventing prescription drug abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA collaborate with the appropriate stakeholders to facilitate pharmacist access to PMP data and seamlessly integrate PMP data into pharmacy dispensing workflow.



ATTEST: _____
President

DATE: October 23, 2015



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2015-03
October 2015
Scottsdale, Arizona

A Resolution Encouraging Prescriber Access to and Utilization of Prescription Monitoring Programs

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse has grown to epidemic proportions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the prescription drug epidemic has led to an increase in unintentional drug overdose death rates in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the prescriber plays a major role in preventing prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the chances of identifying prescription drug abuse can be greatly increased when the prescriber accesses available prescription monitoring program (PMP) data and utilizes it to identify potential drug seeking behavior by a patient;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) work with appropriate prescriber stakeholder groups to educate prescribers about PMPs and encourage adoption of legislation/regulations that require prescribers to access PMP data prior to issuing a controlled substance prescription to a patient for the first time.

ATTEST: 

President

DATE: October 23, 2015



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2013-02

October 2013

Kansas City, Missouri

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING JURISDICTIONS TO ADOPT PRESCRIPTION
DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS THAT INCORPORATE INTEROPERABILITY OF
DATA**

WHEREAS, Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs assists prescribers and dispensers to make informed treatment and dispensing decisions;

WHEREAS, Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs is an effective, time saving, and cost-effective investigative tool for law enforcement and regulatory personnel;

WHEREAS, Patients will travel to other jurisdictions to obtain prescriptions for legitimate and illegitimate purposes

WHEREAS, There are 47 jurisdictions with operational Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs but only 28 jurisdictions have signed MOUs to be interoperable with other programs, only 20 have implemented interoperability, and several programs do not have authority to share data with other state Prescription Monitoring Programs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) recommends to legislatures and regulatory agencies in all jurisdictions that they evaluate the adequacy of existing laws and regulations pertaining to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA recommends that where necessary, states pursue legislation and regulatory remedies that enable more effective efforts to promote and implement interoperability capabilities for all Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

ATTEST:
President

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Date: October 25, 2013





National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2013-03

October 2013

Kansas City, Missouri

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING JURISDICTIONS TO ADOPT PRESCRIPTION
DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS THAT UTILIZE HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY FOR INTEGRATION WITH HEALTH SYSTEM APPLICATIONS,
PHARMACY SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS AND HEALTH INFORMATION
EXCHANGES**

WHEREAS, Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs assist prescribers and dispensers to make informed treatment and dispensing decisions;

WHEREAS, Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs are currently underutilized by prescribers and dispensers due to workflow integration issues;

WHEREAS, Pilot programs studying the integration of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program data with various health information technology platforms reported the pilot integrations to be well received by healthcare professionals who found that the integration provided crucial information in a timely manner; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) recommends to legislatures and regulatory agencies in all jurisdictions that they evaluate the adequacy of existing laws and regulations pertaining to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA recommends that where necessary, jurisdictions pursue legislation and regulatory remedies and provide resources to enable more effective efforts to promote and implement integration capabilities for all Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

ATTEST:
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Robert O.", written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 25, 2013

