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March 27, 2008

The Honorable Dave Loebsack  
United States House of Representatives  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

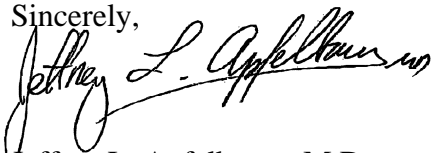
Dear Congressman Loebsack:

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) applauds your leadership in introducing H.R. 5465, a bill that would improve pain care for servicemen and women and their families. We enthusiastically support the measure, and pledge the assistance of our organization as you move the bill forward in the legislative process.

Virtually every service member injured in current conflicts will experience acute pain at the time of his or her injury. So too will many afflicted with non-combat related injury or disease during the course of their military service. For many, acute pain will progress to chronic pain conditions that affect their future service, their basic quality of life, their relationships with friends and family, and their ability to lead productive lives whether in or after military service. With prompt, aggressive and appropriate treatment, much acute pain can be alleviated, and much chronic pain avoided or managed.

The Department of Defense and the uniformed services are doing much to provide pain care within their various medical care programs and facilities, yet much more remains to be done. Your bill is a vital step in making pain care a national priority within the military health care systems. The brave men and women in military service, and their families, deserve no less.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Apfelbaum, M.D.  
President