

PAIN CARE COALITION

A National Coalition for Responsible Pain Care

American Academy of Pain Medicine • American Headache Society • American Pain Society
American Society of Anesthesiologists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC. The Pain Care Coalition announced today its strong support for HR 2994, the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007. **“This bill is a milestone for patients in pain and the professionals who treat them”** said Richard Rosenquist, MD, Chairman of the Coalition and Professor of Anesthesia at the University of Iowa. HR 2994 was introduced in the House of Representatives on Wednesday July 11 by Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA) and Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI). **“We applaud Representatives Capps and Rogers for recognizing pain as a major public health problem in this country”** said Rosenquist, adding **“by promoting research, education, and public awareness, this bill offers practical and affordable steps the government can take to improve care for millions who suffer acute or chronic pain every day.”**

In introducing the bill, Congresswoman Capps noted **“Pain is the leading cause of disability in the United States and is straining our health care system.”** Congressman Rogers added **“Pain keeps sufferers from their family, work and the community, and in many cases it is so severe it can be life threatening. Back pain alone affects more than 70 percent of all Americans at some time in their lives, with the cost for medical services topping \$26 billion annually.”**

The National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007 would combat pain in four ways: by authorizing an Institute of Medicine Conference on Pain Care; authorizing a Pain Consortium at the National Institutes of Health; providing comprehensive pain care education and training for health care professionals; and by instituting a public awareness campaign on pain management.

The Pain Care Coalition advocates for progressive pain care policies at the national level. Collectively, the Coalition’s member organizations represent thousands of physicians, psychologists, nurses, and researchers involved in clinical care, teaching and research.

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