

Drug and Supply Shortages



Support the RAPID Reserve Act to mitigate drug shortages facing healthcare providers

Background on OMSs' experience with drug and supply shortages



As the surgical branch of dentistry – and the bridge to medical colleagues – oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) provide vital services that are urgent, emergent and outpatient in nature.



OMSs are particularly prone to pharmaceutical and supply shortages due to their unique skillset and practice model. Most OMS offices function as small, independent operatories – providing office-based sedation and anesthesia on a daily basis to patients who would otherwise not tolerate treatment outside a hospital operating room.



OMSs need access to – but have experienced shortages of – the following pharmacologies: anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics, antiemetics, emergency medications and saline. Drug shortages have been an ongoing challenge despite past congressional efforts to address the issue.



When medications or supplies are unavailable – or available only at substantially elevated prices, as is typical during shortage periods – OMSs cannot offer their customary high level of care and access to treatment that, in turn, significantly impacts the healthcare system.

AAOMS's position and ask of Congress



**Co-sponsor
S 2510/HR 6802**

- The RAPID Reserve Act was introduced by Sens. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) as well as Reps. Angie Craig (D-Minn.), Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.) and Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.).
 - The bill aims to address drug shortages by awarding federal contracts to American-based manufacturers of generic drugs to **encourage domestic production of these critical medications as well as incentivize them to increase their reserves** in preparation for possible future public health threats or supply chain challenges and **ramp up their production capacity if necessary to proactively prevent shortages**.
 - The bill is endorsed by the American Hospital Association and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, among others.
- AAOMS also supports *other proposed legislative measures* to alleviate or prevent shortages, including: establishing a comprehensive database to track the entire pharmaceutical supply chain (S 2364/HR 6992); requiring manufacturers to notify the FDA of heightened demand for crucial medicines that could lead to shortages (S 2362/HR 3008); implementing reimbursement models to incentivize the production of generic injectables and extending expiration dates for life-saving medications (S 2586).
 - AAOMS also requests consideration of these other *potential solutions*: increase production quotas of controlled substances in short supply and initiate a congressional study on the impact a nonprofit could have to assist office-based professionals in securing pharmacologies similar to programs serving several hospital systems.

To learn more or co-sponsor, contact the office of Sen. Blackburn, Sen. Brown or Sen. Peters or Rep. Craig, Rep. Van Drew or Rep. Spanberger.

