

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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AAOMS.org

J. David Morrison, DMD President

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The Honorable Gary Peters U.S. Senate 724 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst U.S. Senate 260 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Lankford U.S. Senate 260 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cotton U.S. Senate 326 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine U.S. Senate 231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Angus King U.S. Senate 133 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott U.S. Senate 110 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doris Matsui U.S. House of Representatives 2206 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Crenshaw U.S. House of Representatives 248 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Peters, Ernst, Lankford, Cotton, Kaine, King and Scott and Representatives Matsui and Crenshaw:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional association that represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, I wish to thank you for your committed leadership to preventing drug shortages by reintroducing the MAPS Act (S 1784/HR 4191).

As the surgical branch of dentistry – and the bridge to medicine – 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.

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

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, which, in turn, significantly impacts the healthcare system.

Enhancing transparency across the pharmaceutical supply chain is essential to identifying and preventing future drug shortages. AAOMS believes the MAPS Act's emphasis on conducting a risk assessment and supply chain map of all essential medicines will help identify vulnerabilities and potential national security risks – ultimately enhancing patient protection, preventing shortages and reducing the country's reliance on foreign sources when necessary.

AAOMS looks forward to working on advocating to advance the bill through the 119th Congress. On behalf of AAOMS, thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Tuerk, director of government affairs at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321 or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

J. David Morrison, DMD

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President