

Consensus Statement Supporting the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007

Pain touches every member of our society at some point in life. The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that 76.2 million, one in every four Americans, have suffered from pain that lasts longer than 24 hours; millions more suffer from acute pain. Left untreated, pain can rob quality of life and affect every aspect of daily living, including work, sleep, and social relations.

NOW is the time to educate healthcare professionals, people in pain and their loved ones, as well as the general public about the importance of achieving appropriate pain assessment and management and addressing the barriers that prevent pain control in every instance, particularly among minority and other medically underserved populations, and to coordinate research on the causes of pain and development of improved therapies to manage it adequately.

As members and representatives of the pain care community, the undersigned organizations support and urge passage of the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007, which includes the following four actions:

1. Convene an Institute of Medicine Conference on Pain Care, with a Report Summarizing Findings and Recommendations;
2. Authorize a Permanent Pain Consortium at the National Institutes of Health to Coordinate Pain Research Across Institutes and Centers;
3. Create an Education and Training Grant Program to Improve Health Professionals' Understanding and Ability to Assess and Appropriately Treat Pain; and
4. Develop and Implement a National Pain Management Public Outreach and Awareness Campaign.

Signed,

The American Cancer Society
The American Pain Foundation
The Alliance of State Pain Initiatives
....and more

For an updated list of signees, visit www.painfoundation.org