



June 15, 2016

The Honorable William Cassidy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

On behalf of the more than 300,000 professional fire fighters and emergency response personnel of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the more than 11,000 fire and emergency medical services (EMS) chiefs of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), we are pleased to offer our enthusiastic endorsement for the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (S. 2932). This legislation will ensure that paramedics and other emergency medical personnel are able to continue to administer medically-appropriate controlled substances to patients in need.

Recent Administration decisions threaten to undermine patient care by placing unnecessary restrictions on the ability of fully-certified medical personnel to provide medicine and appropriate care before transport to a hospital. Operating under medical direction, EMS personnel have long been empowered to provide necessary treatment to save lives, manage pain, and improve health outcomes. Your legislation will help ensure that victims of accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and other traumatic events will continue to have access to these essential services.

As the nation's all-hazards responders, the fire and emergency service responds to thousands of medical emergencies each day. We know firsthand the value of providing patients with appropriate treatments both on-scene and enroute to a hospital. We call on Congress to quickly enact your legislation and ensure that we are able to continue to provide this vital patient care.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. The IAFC and IAFF stand ready to assist you in seeing this legislation enacted in the coming months.

Sincerely,

International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Fire Fighters