

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902

May 7, 2010

Seniors Aid NH  
Seniors Aid NH  
C/O the New Hampshire Health Care Association  
125 Airport Rd.  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Seniors Aid NH,

Thank you for contacting me about access to pain medications. I truly appreciate hearing from you, and I am working hard to stand up for New Hampshire's interests in Congress.

I share your concerns about ensuring access to appropriate medical care. Effective pain management is needed to help treat those living with chronic pain, and that pain management should be closely monitored by medical providers. The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) of 1970 is the federal law that regulates the lawful production, possession, and distribution of controlled substances like opiates.

Health care policy should allow those with pain to access the pain medications they need, while balancing the public health protections necessary to control highly addictive substances. The CSA provides special control mechanisms for licensed practitioners and pharmacists who dispense controlled substances like opiates to patients for legitimate medical purposes. Under the CSA, only licensed medical practitioners are authorized to prescribe controlled substances like opiates to patients. A prescription for a controlled substance must be "issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice."

I appreciate you taking the time to share with me your experiences with this issue. Please know that as Congress continues to consider health insurance reform, I will keep your story in mind.

I encourage you to continue to contact me about the issues that are important to you. Please feel free to visit my website at [www.hodes.house.gov](http://www.hodes.house.gov) where you can share your ideas with me, learn about the services I can provide to you, and sign up for my periodic e-mail updates on what I am doing to help New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

1317 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5206  
FAX: (202) 225-2946

18 NORTH MAIN ST.  
SUITE 400  
CONCORD, NH 03301  
PHONE: (603) 223-9814  
FAX: (603) 223-9819

151 MAIN STREET  
BERLIN, NH 03570  
PHONE: (603) 752-4680

32 MAIN STREET  
ROOM 110  
LITTLETON, NH 03561  
PHONE: (603) 444-8967

221 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 201  
NASHUA, NH 03060  
PHONE: (603) 579-6913  
FAX: (603) 579-6916

29 CENTER STREET  
KEENE, NH 03431  
PHONE: (603) 358-1023  
FAX: (603) 358-1025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Hodes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress