



## 2016 Issue Brief

### Tackling the Opioid Abuse Epidemic

AMGA and federal policymakers recognize that opioid abuse is a very serious and complex problem. In March, the Senate passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), S. 524, and in May, the House of Representatives passed a series of bills aimed to address the opioid abuse epidemic. The bills focus on prevention, education, treatment, and law enforcement through various grant programs and creating a task force to establish best practices for the treatment of pain. Currently, a conference committee has been tasked with resolving differences between the Senate and House bills.

Title 1 of the Senate bill, and H.R. 4641 would create a Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. The Task Force would be required to submit a report to Congress on disseminating best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, the feasibility of linking best practices to receiving and renewing registrations for prescribing controlled substances, and would make recommendations for applying those best practices at medical facilities.

#### **AMGA Asks Congress to:**

Support best practices for the management of pain and prescribing pain medication, while recognizing that physicians should be able to provide the best treatment option for their patients based on the patient's unique circumstances.