



**American Academy of Family Physicians**  
2021 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1011

July 20, 2001

Ms. Kimberly Topper  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-2)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I am writing pursuant to a May 3<sup>rd</sup> notice in the Federal Register regarding a forthcoming meeting of the Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee. The meeting was originally scheduled for June 14 and 15, but was subsequently postponed until September 13 & 14. I understand that the purpose of the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> includes the review of procedures to prevent the diversion and abuse of prescription pain relief medicines, especially OxyContin. I would request the opportunity for an officer of the American Academy of Family Physicians to address this committee.

The American Academy of Family Physicians is the medical specialty society representing over 93,100 family physicians, family practice residents and medical students nationwide. Family physicians provide continuing and comprehensive medical care, health maintenance and preventive services to each member of the family, regardless of gender, age or type of problem, whether biological, behavioral or social. They are trained to provide treatment of chronic and severe pain in their patients and they practice in many of the areas that have seen an increase in the abuse of OxyContin. The Academy would like to have the opportunity to describe the steps that we have undertaken to educate our members about the appropriate criteria for prescribing OxyContin and how to prevent its diversion.

Our members are concerned about suggestions repeatedly made by officials of the Drug Enforcement Administration that the right to prescribe OxyContin and similar drugs should be limited to specialists in pain management. This is a deeply flawed suggestion that we would strongly oppose because of the difficulties it would create for seriously ill patients.

**President**

Richard Roberts, MD, JD  
*Madison, Wisconsin*

**President-elect**

Warren A. Jones, MD  
(Uniformed Services)  
*Potomac, Maryland*

**Board Chair**

Bruce Bagley, MD  
*Albany, New York*

**Speaker**

Michael Fleming, MD  
*Shreveport, Louisiana*

**Vice Speaker**

Carolyn C. Lopez, MD  
*Chicago, Illinois*

**Executive Vice President**

Douglas E. Henley, MD  
*Leawood, Kansas*

**Directors**

Ross R. Black II, MD  
*Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio*

James C. Martin, MD  
*San Antonio, Texas*

Jerry P. Rogers, MD  
*Moorhead, Minnesota*

Karla L. Birkholz, MD  
*Glendale, Arizona*

Burton Dibble, MD  
*Kingston, New Hampshire*

Daniel J. Van Durme, MD  
*Tampa, Florida*

Nancy Wilson Ashbach, MD  
*Loveland, Colorado*

Mary E. Frank, MD  
*Rohnert Park, California*

Richard A. Wherry, MD  
*Dahlonega, Georgia*

Jennifer R. Aloff, MD  
(Resident Member)  
*Midland, Michigan*

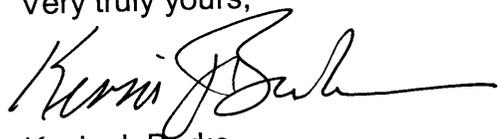
Andrew C. Mills  
(Student Member)  
*Tulsa, Oklahoma*

(888) 794-7481  
(202) 232-9033  
Fax: (202) 232-9044  
E-mail: capitol@aafp.org  
<http://www.aafp.org>

Could I also ask that you provide me with a list of the members of the Advisory Committee and their background and the information that you can forward to me about the appointment process for new members? And of course, would you send me any information that is available on the upcoming meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kevin J. Burke  
Director of Government Relations