

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2007

Jim Nussle  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Nussle:

We are writing to express our strong support for including funding for the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Act in the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request.

Congress passed this legislation with bipartisan support in order to address the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs. It is intended to provide grants to states to establish or enhance prescription drug monitoring programs. These programs can give health care providers timely access to the prescription history of patients, which enables them to identify patients at risk for addiction and provides an opportunity for early intervention.

While the President signed the bill into law in August 2005, the Administration has never included funding for the program in its budget request to Congress. Drug monitoring programs have been effective in states where they are already established. Providing funds for NASPER would help the states address this national problem.

We strongly urge the inclusion of funding for this vital program in the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dick Durbin

Jeff Sessions

Edward M. Kennedy

Noah Coleman

Dijl Vitter  
JH B

Chris TDM  
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