



# Families for *Intractable* Pain Relief

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## Families for Intractable Pain Relief ALERT!! CALL TO ACTION!

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As promised in the first edition of the Families for Intractable Pain Relief (FIPR) newsletter, we want to alert you when we find time-sensitive information to share with you. The following items present important opportunities for written comments or phone calls to engage on urgent issues.

### Important Comment Opportunities:

#### **International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Releases Proposed New Definition of Pain for Comment**

IASP has asked for public comments by September 11, 2019 on its proposed new definition of pain. Thanks to Richard "Red" Lawhern for making us aware of a new article by Dawn Rae Downton, a Canadian pain patient and health policy analyst/writer, who offers the opinion that the current definition "ain't broke. Why fix it?" You can read her article at <https://www.statnews.com/2019/09/05/pain-new-definition-proposed/>. If you agree with us that the status quo is better than the proposed rewrite, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with IASP. You can read about the proposed changes and access the link to provide your comments at: <https://www.iasp-pain.org/PublicationsNews/NewsDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=9218>.

#### **Senator Cassidy Urges DEA to Ensure Continued Access to Pain Medications for Chronic Pain Patients**

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D., (R-LA) has written to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to express concern that responsible patients with chronic pain need continued access to pain medications. FIPR applauds this action by Senator Cassidy, a physician who serves on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. We suggest that you call Senator Cassidy's office to thank him for taking this action, and then call your U.S. Senators and ask them to write to DEA also. You can reach Senator Cassidy's office at (202) 224-5824, by clicking <https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/contact>, or snail mail at 520 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. You can read Senator Cassidy's letter on National Pain Report at <http://nationalpainreport.com/has-the-dea-gone-too-far-a-u-s-senator-who-is-a-physician-writes-the-dea-8841045.html>. We suggest that you send the article to your U.S. Senators, Representatives, state legislators, and state Medical Boards. Way to go, Senator Cassidy!