A Resolution Encouraging State Healthcare Licensing Boards and Professional Healthcare Associations to Advocate Judicious Prescribing of Opioid Analgesics and Other Controlled Substances Following Medical and Dental Procedures or Upon Patient Discharge

WHEREAS, opioid analgesics and other controlled substances are essential for the treatment of pain and other indications; and

WHEREAS, opioid analgesics and other controlled substances have potential for abuse; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse is an acute public health problem; and

WHEREAS, practitioners often prescribe opioid analgesics and other controlled substances for time periods longer than medically indicated; and

WHEREAS, unused opioid analgesics and other controlled substances often end up in unsecured medical cabinets accessible by patients’ family members and visitors and can be misused for non-legitimate medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, inappropriately prescribed, overprescribed and unused opioid analgesics and other controlled substances contribute to the prescription drug abuse problem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities ("NASCSA") hereby encourages the appropriate prescribing of opioid analgesics and other controlled substances to patients following medical and dental procedures and upon patient discharge from hospitals and other medical facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA encourages state healthcare licensing boards and professional healthcare associations to advocate that practitioners appropriately prescribe opioid analgesics and other controlled substances in these circumstances and to counsel their patients about securely storing and safely disposing of such medication.
ATTEST:__________________________

President

Date: October 24, 2014