



**A COALITION TO END  
THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**  
*Opioids are narcotic painkillers & heroin*

**Judy Rummier**  
Chair, Fed Up! Coalition  
President,  
Steve Rummier Hope Foundation  
(Minnesota)

**Barbara Allen**  
Executive Director,  
James' Place Inc.  
(Virginia)

**Daniel Busch, MD**  
Founder,  
StopDrugDeath Now  
(Illinois)

**Karen J. Carlini, CASAC**  
Coalition for Community Services  
(New York)

**Ada Giudice-Tompson**  
Vice President,  
Advocates for the Reform  
of Prescription Opioids, Inc.  
(Canada)

**Michele Gleason**  
Advisory Committee Member,  
Connect the Pieces  
(Idaho)

**Peter W. Jackson**  
President,  
Advocates for the Reform  
of Prescription Opioids, Inc.  
(Illinois)

**Maureen Kielian**  
Vice President,  
STOPPnow  
(Florida)

**Andrew Kolodny, MD**  
Executive Director,  
Physicians for Responsible  
Opioid Prescribing  
(New York)

**Sandra Kresser**  
Treasurer,  
Advocates for the Reform  
of Prescription Opioids, Inc.  
(Utah)

**Teri Kroll**  
Coordinator,  
PUSH/LICADD  
(New York)

**Chelsea A. Laliberte**  
Executive Director/Cofounder,  
Live4Life, Inc.  
(Illinois)

**Jan McGrory**  
Founder,  
Lower Cape Community  
Addiction Network  
(Massachusetts)

**Joanne Peterson**  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Learn to Cope  
(Massachusetts)

**April J. Rovero**  
Founder/CEO,  
National Coalition Against  
Prescription Drug Abuse  
(California)

**Emily Walden**  
President,  
STOPPnow  
(Kentucky)

September 16, 2015

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of dozens of organizations on the front line of our nation's prescription opioid and heroin crisis and on behalf of hundreds of thousands of American families devastated by opioid addiction, we are writing to you about a Senate Finance Committee investigation launched in 2012. We respectfully request that you make public the findings from this investigation.

On May 8, 2012, Senators Grassley and Baucus sent letters to three opioid manufacturers and seven non-profit organizations that have promoted aggressive opioid use. In their letters to these groups, they wrote:

“There is growing evidence that pharmaceutical companies that manufacture and market opioids may be responsible, at least in part, for this epidemic by promoting misleading information about the drugs' safety and effectiveness.”

The Senate Finance Committee investigation sought information on efforts by opioid makers and nonprofit groups to encourage aggressive opioid prescribing for common conditions like low back pain, where risks of use outweigh benefits. These efforts led to a sharp increase in opioid prescriptions and consequently to soaring rates of addiction, overdose deaths, infants born opioid-dependent, and other health and social problems. According to the CDC, overexposure of our population to opioid painkillers has also led to a new heroin problem.

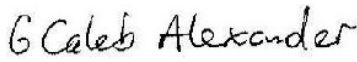
Opioid overdoses, once rare in the United States, have caused more than 220,000 deaths (175,000 from painkillers and 45,000 from heroin) since 1999. That is more than double the number of American lives lost in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combined. In other words, the efforts by opioid manufacturers to increase opioid prescribing have led to a public health catastrophe that may take decades for our country to recover from.

Senate Finance Committee staff spent several months collecting and sorting through the records they requested. Regrettably, the findings from this investigation have never been shared with the public. This is why we are writing to you.

The results of the investigation are not simply a matter of historical importance. Some of these same companies and non-profit groups have continued to promote aggressive opioid use and continue to block federal and state interventions that could reduce overprescribing. In addition, some of the individuals mentioned in the Committee's letters to drug companies continue to work as advisors to federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

To bring our nation's epidemic of opioid addiction to an end, we must reduce overprescribing of opioids. This goal will be difficult to achieve if opioid makers, and the groups they fund, continue to promote aggressive and inappropriate prescribing. We urge you to release the findings from the Committee's investigation of their activities.


Sincerely,



G. Caleb Alexander, MD, FACP  
Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Drug Safety and Effectiveness  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Baltimore, MD



Samuel A. Ball, PhD  
President and CEO  
CASA Columbia®  
New York, NY




Jane Ballantyne M.D., F.R.C.A.  
President  
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)  
New York, NY



Betty Blackburn  
Director of Community Relations  
American Addiction Centers  
Brentwood, TN



Marianne Burke, Ph.D.  
State Director, Virginia C.A.N.  
(Change Addiction Now)  
Fairfax, VA



Daniel A. Busch, MD  
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine  
Founder, StopDrugDeath.com  
Evanston, IL



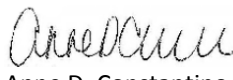
Michael A. Carome, MD  
Director  
Public Citizen's Health Research Group  
Washington, DC



Pamela Clark  
Director  
Transforming Youth Recovery  
Reno, NV



Janet Colbert  
CEO  
STOPPNOW  
Broward County, FL



Anne D. Constantino  
President and CEO  
Horizon Health Services  
Buffalo, NY



Adriane Fugh-Berman MD  
Director  
Pharmedout  
Washington, DC



R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, MD, DLFAPA, FASAM  
President  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Chevy Chase, MD



Avi Israel  
President  
Save the Michaels of the World  
Buffalo, NY



Peter W. Jackson  
President  
Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids, Inc.  
Chicago, IL



Mary Jo McMillen, ASUDC  
Executive Director  
USARA  
Salt Lake City, UT



Rep. Carol Moss  
Representative  
Utah House of Representatives, District 37  
Salt Lake City, UT



Robin Kellner  
President  
The Zoe's Story Fund  
New York, NY



Andrew Kolodny, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Phoenix House Foundation, Inc.  
New York, NY



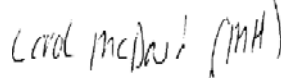
Sandra Kresser  
Treasurer  
ARPO  
Salt Lake City, UT



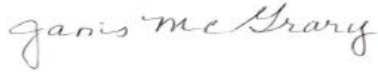
Teri Kroll  
Coordinator  
People United to Stop Heroin on Long Island  
(PUSH-LI)  
Mineola, NY



Danesh Mazloomdoost, MD  
Founder  
Pain Management Medicine  
Lexington, KY



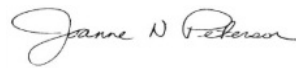
Carol McDaid  
Co-Founder  
McShin Foundation  
Richmond, VA



Janis McGrory  
Founder  
Lower Cape Community Anti-Drug Network  
Cape Cod, MA



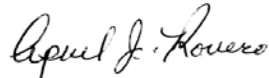
Michele McTiernan-Gleason  
Director of Recovery Wellness  
Connect the Pieces to Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse  
Boise, ID



Joanne Peterson  
Founder and Executive Director  
Learn2Cope  
Boston, MA



Mel Pohl, MD  
Medical Director  
Las Vegas Recovery Center  
Las Vegas, NV



April J. Rovero  
President  
National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse  
(NCAPDA)  
San Ramon, CA



Sherrie Rubin  
Director  
The Hope2gether Foundation  
San Diego, CA



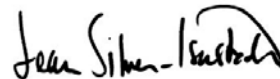
Judy Rummler  
President  
Steve Rummler Hope Foundation  
Minneapolis, MN



Susan Salomone  
Founder  
Drug Crisis in our Backyard  
Mahopac, NY



Marvin D. Seppala, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation  
Center City, MN



Jean Silver-Isenstadt, MD, PhD  
Executive Director  
National Physicians Alliance  
Washington, DC



Raymond V. Tamasi  
President and CEO  
Gosnold on Cape Cod  
Falmouth, MA



Ken Thompson, MD  
Trusted Servant  
Like Minded Docs  
Strasburg, PA

*Duana Wilkins*

Duana Wilkins  
Executive Director  
Change Addiction Now, United We C.A.N.  
Mount Vernon, WA

*William H. Williams*

William H. Williams  
Co-Founder  
Where There's A Will Fund  
New York, NY