Nov 29, 2000

To Whom It May Concern.

My name is [redacted] I am a [redacted]
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I have had irritable bowel syndrome for 12 yrs & it has been very severe since 1994. I suffer from severe urgency & often am incontinent & must travel with a "portapotty" in my car.

In April 1998, I started in the research program for Glaxo-Wilcomes drug Latronex. I had amazing success with the drug & it has changed my life tremendously. I have been able to go places & do things that I have been unable to do because I have been almost a prisoner in my own house. I had been unable to go many places away from home or work due to the terrible urgency I had. Often I sailed my clothes & always carried extra clothing with me. It was so embarassing to me & I was very depressed. Latronex changed my life - I finally had a life again. (Believe me, I am not exaggerating)

I was monitored very closely by [redacted] at [redacted] Research the entire time I was in the program & also by my family physician. I was Dr Bleser's "success story" & I told many of my patients who had IBS about my overwhelming experience with Latronex. I did find that 1 tablet twice a day was too much for me as I become constipated but 1/2 tablet once or twice a day controlled my IBS symptoms.

You cannot know how devistated I was to hear yesterday that the FDA was pulling Latronex off the market. I feel like I am being put back in prison again.

Many drugs have serious side effects if they are not prescribed

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properly or used by the right people.

Please reconsider your decision in taking Lotronex completely off the market. If the patient truly has IBS & is monitored closely by their doctor, it is a very helpful drug to those of us who have to suffer from this miserable, embarassing & depressing condition.
I have tried every drug available in the past for IBS & none of them were even slightly effective.

I interview & assess patients every day & know firsthand from my patients what a terrible & debilitating condition IBS is.

Please work with Elan Wilcox & help those of us who had such a rewarding experience with Lotronex, because I do not know what I will do without it.

Sincerely,

[redacted]