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Huntington Internal Medicine Group

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CARDIOLOGY
CARDIAC-CATHERIZATION
ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY
St. Mary's Hospital Outpatient Center
2860 Third Avenue - Suite 210
Huntington, WV 25702

DERMATOLOGY
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

ENDOCRINOLOGY & DIABETES
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

FAMILY PRACTICE
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703
506 Cleveland St.
Wayne, WV 25570
401 Camden Road
Huntington, WV 25704
6475 Farmdale Rd.
Barboursville, WV 25504

GASTROENTEROLOGY-ENDOSCOPY
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

GENERAL SURGERY
Highlawn Medical Building
2828 First Avenue, Suite 305
Huntington, WV 25702

HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY
St. Mary's Hospital
2900 First Avenue - Sixth Floor
Huntington, WV 25702

INTERNAL MEDICINE
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703
6475 Farmdale Rd.
Barboursville, WV 25504
1399 Hospital Dr.
Hurricane, WV 25526

NEPHROLOGY-HYPERTENSION
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
St. Mary's Hospital Professional Center
2866 First Avenue - Suite 401
Huntington, WV 25702

OPHTHALMOLOGY
St. Mary's Hospital Outpatient Center
2860 Third Avenue - Suite 20
Huntington, WV 25702

PULMONARY DISEASE
St. Mary's Hospital Outpatient Center
2860 Third Avenue - Suite 210
Huntington, WV 25702

RADIOLOGY
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

RHEUMATOLOGY
1115 Twentieth Street
Huntington, WV 25703

May 29, 2001

Ms. Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rodville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I have been in clinical medicine for over 30 years. I am a medical oncologist who frequently treats cancer pain. In addition, I have had a number of patients with nonmalignant pain who require regular opioid medications. Pain relief is a very humane form of treatment which is very beneficial to the patient. The patient has better sleep habits, better concentration during the day, and generally better quality of life when pain control is at a reasonable level. The incidents of drug abuse secondary to medical treatment of pain is extremely low (probably in the order of 1 in 10,000). The use of opioid analgesics has increased approximately 300% over the last 10 years and during this time the problems of diversion and abuse have remained about the same.

The recent publicized reports of abuse and diversion may have the undesirable effect of decreased pain relief for legitimate medical indications. I hope that your committee will consider these facts as they prepare their recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

J. David Daniels, M.D.

Fax to (301) 827-6801

JDD/kl
D:05/29/2001
T:05/29/2001

THOMAS M. BARRETT
5TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



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May 31, 2001

Ms. Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1093
Mail Stop #HSDT21
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I am aware that the FDA's Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee is convening June 14-15 to consider the use of opiate pain medication. I encourage you to hear the testimony of Tom Barnes, the Director of the American Society for Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy - Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (RSD-CRPS) Association, at this hearing.

As you may know, RSD-CRPS is an extremely painful, multi-symptomatic disease that typically develops after a trauma to the body, such as a fracture, sprain or surgery. It results in severe burning pain, tissue swelling, muscle spasms, joint stiffness, and extreme sensitivity to touch. The symptoms, which may begin at the site of injury, can spread throughout the body and worsen over time. This terrible disease is estimated to afflict nearly 7 million Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Kira Dahlk in my office (225-3571) to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish over the first name.

Tom Barrett
Member of Congress

TB:kd