

June 15, 2001

Kimberly Topper  
Food and Drug Administration, CDER,  
Advisor and Consultant Staff HFD-21  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear MS. Topper

My name is Don Dickey. I am a 50 year old Transportation Manager in Phoenix, AZ. Recently while on a trip to Florida, I saw a disturbing article reported in the news in the Orlando area. It stated that young people on spring break were found to be using the drug Oxycontin, in an improper recreational format, with some deaths occurring. After returning home, I read in a medical article that due to this improper use problem, the FDA was considering sanctioning or tightening control on Oxycontin. This drug already has some very tight restrictions, and more restrictions only hurt individuals like myself from getting the medications needed for us to live as pain free of a life as possible. As I stated before I am a Transportation Manager and can still enjoy a productive life because of the proper use of medically prescribed prescriptions. I have Reiters Syndrome which is triggered by Rheumatoid Arthritis and these medications allow me to continue a productive life. Do not punish those of us that use medicines in the proper way because of some that choose to put their lives at risk through foolish actions. Rather, punish those that use this medicine for recreational purpose and make examples of them by maximum sentencing. This is the proper way to approach this situation, not by punishing those of us that rely on Oxycontin for pain control to try to live a somewhat normal life.

Sincerely, Don Dickey

Don Dickey  
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