

Kimberly Topper Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20857

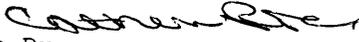
I oppose any legislation, state and/or federal regulations or directives that would in any way make it even more difficult to obtain appropriate treatment for the chronic pain I am forced to live with. I am writing about the use of OPIOIDS to treat RSD. I have had this horribly painful disease for 5 years now, and it is something like a living nightmare, because it's an awful burning, crushing, stabbing pain, unlike anyone could imagine! I never stop hurting, ever! I have been taking MSContin and IRMorphine medications since 1997. Before the Pain Dr. prescribed these Opioid meds for me, I sat and cried all day because, unmedicated the pain was UNBEARABLE. My Morphine meds helped me tremendously. It allowed me to sleep for the first time in many long months. I also take Elavil, that is for the long term pain, depression, caused by the RSD, and helps for sleeping. I am not pain free with my meds, but they allow me to have somewhat of a life, without crying all day and being up all night because the pain is so bad, I cannot sleep.

I know RSDers, who's Drs. are afraid to prescribe them these Opioid meds, and these poor people live in a 24 hour terror, because they have no pain relief. Why when we have these medications, would a patient be denied the opportunity to take them? Because of people who have these archaic beliefs that, these type of meds should not be given to patients? Clearly the people who rally against the prescribing of Opioid medications have not lived with a HORRIBLE pain, such as RSD, or they don't have loved ones who are suffering with this RSD. For our loved ones, it is hard for them to look upon us living with this burning pain, especially when we are denied the meds that can bring us relief!

I guess I am one of the lucky RSDers, to have had a Pain Dr. who thought more about my pain, and was compassionate enough to prescribe me the Morphine for my pain, than he was worried about the inconveniences of controlled medications.

I think the laws should be changed to make these type of Opioid meds readily available to RSDers and Chronic pain sufferers.

I don't think the FDA, has any clue what ramifications they will have on a mass majority of RSDers, if they rule against the use of OPIOID meds for non-terminal patients! I have been providing support on-line to other RSDers for the last 4 years, and I know for a fact that many people will be considering if not acting out SUICIDAL thoughts. Who would want to face 10,20 or even 30 more years of living in this burning pain with NO relief in sight???? I for one would NOT!

Sincerely,
Catherine Rice 
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Copy: US Senators and Congressperson representing my state and district