

July 30, 2001

Kimberly Topper
Food and Drug Administration, CDER
Advisors and Consultants Staff, HFD-21
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville Maryland 20857

Re: Medical Use of Opiate Analgesics for Chronic Pain

Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee:

I am writing to you as a recipient of the Oxycontin medication prescribed to me by my doctor. Without this medication, my life would go nowhere. I have had three previous back surgeries including a spinal fusion. Two years ago I was in an auto accident that left my back in a precarious way.

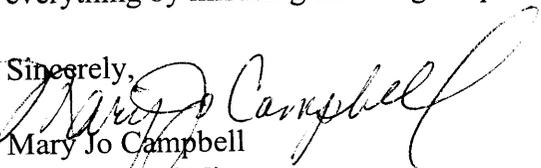
Right after the accident, I was seeing a doctor four times a week to help control the pain so I could continue working and remain self sufficient. After a couple weeks, I was referred to a pain management clinic for help in getting my pain under control. Class I pain medication was not doing anything as far as relieving the pain.

My doctor started me on a small dosage of Oxycontin and gradually increased it to 120 mg a day. This has given me the ability to remain in a full-time job and increased the quality of my life greatly. Without this medication, I will be forced to quit working and will need to apply for SSI benefits to support myself. I will then lose my home since I won't have enough income to pay for a home of my own. Everything I have worked 30+ years will be gone.

This medication cannot be pulled off the market due to some addicts that sniff and inject this to get high. I certainly feel that I am an adult and can follow the directions of my doctor to use this drug in the manner it is intended. Due to the stupidity of these addicts, I may lose the ability to live an independent and full life. This makes me extremely irate and very sad.

Please look at all the people this medication helps rather than focusing on the people who ruin everything by misusing this drug for personal highs and satisfaction.

Sincerely,


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