



## Hoffman & Associates

August 7, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

The latest cause célèbre for many television news programs seems to be the recent rise in OxyContin abuse across the United States. While I have no reason to challenge the sincerity of the individuals making these reports, I do question the statistics they cite and the conclusions they've drawn.

As one who legally uses this medication, I became quite concerned about the safety of OxyContin. To alleviate my anxiety over these reports and to reassure myself that OxyContin is safe, I set out to find the truth about this medication. After careful investigation I'm completely satisfied that OxyContin is both safe and effective. Furthermore, while abuse is indeed a real problem, we're more endangered by the hysterical reporting than this medication.

I suffer with Ankylosing Spondylitis and while I've had the condition for some time the pain eventually escalated to the point where I needed medication. At the outset I treated my back pain with extra-strength aspirin and Tylenol. When the dosage approached 30 caplets a day, just to keep the pain down to a dull roar, I consulted my family doctor. He prescribed Vicodin ES to help manage the pain. While the Vicodin was initially effective, the pain quickly returned well before the next dose was due. This is when I was introduced to OxyContin.

I approached this medication with considerable skepticism. However, I was immediately impressed with the effectiveness of this wonder drug. Even after several years, I'm still on the same dosage and schedule with the OxyContin and it has been nothing short of a Godsend. This medication has given me a quality of life I've not experienced since the outset of my condition. I'm now free to perform simple tasks and activities that others take for granted. I can now do many things with my wife, like grocery shopping and trips to the mall, that were impossible before. Likewise, the reduced pain has given me a whole new outlook on life in general.

As you evaluate this medication, I pray you'll consider all aspects of OxyContin. Please remember the people who have been helped by this medication not just those who have abused it. Unfortunately, while some abuse does exist, much of the negative reporting about this drug is more media-driven hyperbole than fact. Like so many other issues the media exaggerates, truth has little chance of being heard in the frenzy caused by their inaccurate and embellished stories.

Sincerely,

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