Genellen Winkler
2615 E. Behrend Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050-1923

July 13, 2001

To: Kimberly Topper
FDA, CDER

Dear Ms. Topper:

I am writing to you about oxycontin and how important it has been to me. I have had RA since 1975 and have a severe case of it. I have tried most drugs to control my pain: NSAIDS, vicodin, percocet, but I would have to take too many for liver safety, and still have pain.

My ankles and hips are bad now and I need pain pills to get around each day.

Since trying Oxycontin, I have done much better. It controls my pain for 12 hours at a time, so I can go much longer on a dose. Oxycontin gives me a chance for a somewhat normal life,

It makes it possible for me to work 2 days a week and to take care of myself. without it, I would need daily help with baths, cooking, laundry, shopping. I live alone.

Please do not make it harder for people with chronic pain, like me, to get oxycontin. I do not abuse it, but I would hate to go back to Percocet every 4 hours.

Please help to make it more affordable for us, too. My monthly supply of 4-40mg pills a day (2 every 12 hrs.) or 120 pills costs me $525.00 without insurance coverage. My HMO will pay for 3 months, then I have to apply for assistance from Purdue. I qualified this month with Purdue. Last year,

I changed HMO's mid-year and used Visa for the rest of the year. It's very difficult for us with chronic health problems to afford these new medicines, but without them we're doomed to a life in care facilities.

Thank you,

Genellen Winkler
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