

June 30, 2001

Ms. Kimberly Topper  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
FDA Advisory Committee  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE' OXYCONTIN for Non-malignant use.

Dear Ms. Topper:

It is necessary to write this letter to you, in order to maintain a decent quality of life for myself. My neurologist feels the same way. I know this because he wrote to me concerning the decision you are considering regarding Oxycontin.

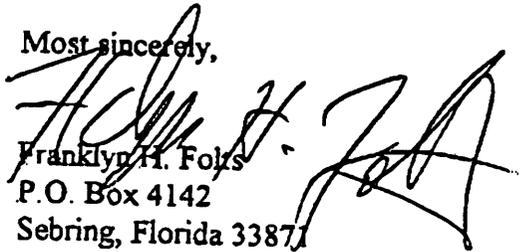
My back was broken for the second time and permanent severe damage done to my spinal cord, eleven and a half years ago, in an elevator accident. My sciatic nerve was partially severed, discs crushed, and bone fragments are left moving in my nerve canal. Surgery is contra-indicated for this second fracture to my spine. My first injury, 27 years ago, a car crash, was corrected through surgery only to have internal scarring create painful problems just seven years later. The second broken back in my case changed my life forever.

The severe to sometimes moderate pain leaves me permanently disabled and living on Social Security and an insurance annuity. I have money problems, but that scores a distant second to the constant severe pain and pronounced alteration to my walking. I cope as well as can be expected, but I have many days where I am unable to get out of bed.

Somewhere about two years ago, some genuine relief came into my life. This real relief came in the form of Oxycontin. I no longer have to take medication four or sometimes five times a day. I no longer am awakened often in the middle of the night by pain running from my back down my leg to my toes. I get a good night's sleep most nights and I experience a moderate decline in pain a good number of days. I am able to do things, like sit up and write this letter thanks to Oxycontin and enjoy a very limited exercise program. None of this was possible prior to my doctor prescribing Oxycontin. It is not a fix-all miracle, but it has made a positive change in my life and I am grateful. I don't want to wait and experience cancer to continue to receive Oxycontin. Please don't let that happen. Please allow me to continue my new found better life, by permitting me and many other people with severe spinal problems, of a non-malignant nature, to have our medication. Please call me if you have questions.

Thank you for time and effort on my behalf, and I look forward to your reply to this cover letter and my original letter. Please, if you would, reply to all of the issues I have raised, as well as any additional information which would be of assistance. I will be of any assistance to your committee I can, however, I do not have access to the internet.

Most sincerely,



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cc: Marc A. Swerdloff, M.D.