August 1, 2001

Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs
Advisory Committee

Dear Members,

I am a 73 year old male who has had chronic pain for the past eleven years. This pain is the result of a spinal cord problem. The pain affects my upper back and both of my legs. I must use canes and a walker to get around.

My quality of life has been negatively affected. I do not know how I could cope without the pain medication prescribed by my doctor. Although the pain medication does not eliminate the constant pain, it does make it tolerable.

On behalf of the estimated 50 million Americans who suffer chronic pain, I urge there be continuous research in the efforts to solve this problem. Also I would urge that in the ongoing War on Drugs, that there will be no misguided intrusions into the area of the War on Chronic Pain.

Sincerely
James O'Hara
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