

Dear Sirs,

It is hard to imagine sometimes what my future is going to look like. I always thought my future would include Terry in it. I always thought Terry and I would grow old together. I never thought I would be living alone without Terry in my life. I never thought I would wake up one morning and find my husband dead because he had put a gun in his mouth and shot himself. I never ever thought that would happen to Terry. I am overwhelmed at times by my incredible loss. I have lost my husband, my best friend, my confidante, my lover. Terry understood me like no one else and probably no one will ever understand me like Terry did.

I believe Terry didn't have the capability to stop his own actions. I believe the drugs totally destroyed his mind. There is not an explanation I can come up for why Terry killed himself, because Terry's decision to end his own life was totally out of character. The Terry before he started taking Effexor would never have ended his own life, for any reason. He was a man who had the courage and the strength to face his problems. He had the intelligence and the common sense to handle whatever problem we were facing. Terry had faith in a great God to help him. Effexor destroyed all that Terry was. There is no other explanation. I know and will always believe that Terry would still be alive today if he had not taken this drug!

Terry was not depressed when he went to the doctor, he was anxious about retirement, but he was not depressed. He was nervous about the fact that he had bad hips and that he had a quadruple bypass surgery a couple years earlier. But he was not depressed. He knew he was a master electrician. He was a very talented electrician. The electrical engineers use to come to Terry when they couldn't figure out a machine because they knew Terry could fix the machine. And he did (figure out what was wrong with a machine). He was very good at his profession. He was always a professional. He was always kind. He was always courteous. He was a good man!

But what has happened because of Terry's suicide, well our lives are changed forever because of Terry's suicide (my children, Terry's family and myself). Now my fight is for all the grown-ups taking these SSRI's and the people who are going to be taking them (SSRI's). These drugs can contribute to suicide to people of all ages, not just teenagers. Every time I see the ad on TV for one of these drugs and when at the end of the commercial, it states how it has been found that this particular drug is linked to suicide in teenagers, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is a false and misleading statement. These drugs have the same effect on older people as well. I can't help but wonder how many grown ups are out there taking one of these drugs and are having a horrible reaction to this drug and they see this advertisement and think, "Oh, this drug only effects teenagers and not older people, so what I am thinking is just me thinking of

committing suicide." The fact of the matter is, if this person wasn't on this drug they wouldn't be thinking about suicide. My late husband is proof of that fact. There are too many other grown-ups who have taken one of these SSRI's and luckily for them, they stopped taking the drug because of how it made them feel. Others, like my husband, just never had a chance to realize that something was horribly wrong because of the drug.

Any ad needs and should state the fact that these drugs have been proven to contribute to suicide in all ages. These drugs are not selective of the age of the person. Please make the drug companies **accountable** for their actions, whether it is in commercials or whether it is in their brochures, or whether it is in their disclosure facts on their drugs. I don't want to see any more unnecessary deaths because of **misleading** advertisements.

The precious lives of our loved ones who have committed suicide, well, they are and always will be very important to us and now action must be taken to help save others from a death that should never happen. I am doing this for Terry because I know he would want me to be his voice for him in this fight.

I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.

Sincerely,

Annabel R. Dobbs