

United States House of Representatives
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, chair
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 8, 2020

Dear esteemed committee members, thank you for letting me submit a statement in regards to the criminal Sackler family.

I lost my only son, Eddie, on President's Day 2001 due to an OxyContin he took along with friends at a high school party.

August 2001, I attended the very first Congressional hearing on OxyContin and I was shocked when it was revealed that Purdue Pharma had NOT shared the overprescribing data they had on the Pill Mill Doctor who was flooding my neighborhood with OXY's for the previous two years.

Had they of been an ETHICALLY run company and warned of this Pill Mill doctor who later received a 30-year sentence, I would not be living every parent's worst nightmare and writing you now.

I also attended many other hearings/meetings/employee whistle blower trials and gave testimony at the 2007 sentencing in Abingdon, VA.

None of these previous hearings, not even the 2007- 600 million plus fine and probation, slowed down the Sackler's bloodlust for profits.

In 2007, a prosecution memo calling for jail time was buried by the brass at the DOJ and the judge never saw this game changing memo. Judge Jones was apologetic to the many families in attendance that he was following the submitted (false) recommendation of NO jail time.

The Sackler's succeeded in gaining immunity for any crimes before the 2007 sentencing but they also pledged in writing things would be different going forward.

As documented in many books, articles and released internal documents, the Sackler's did not live up to this agreement and even tripled the sales force as the death toll rose exponentially.

The evidence of crimes is there. Anything less than jail will NOT be a deterrent to history repeating itself to another GREED fueled epidemic.

Transparency with ALL documents being released is a must to avoid a similar future catastrophe.

It is also insulting to the millions of survivors that they should be forced to sell the very drug that has caused their pain via the proposed Public Benefit Company to fund rehab services

I call what is now happening in Whiteplains NY a bankruptcy SCAM because its main purpose is only to gain the Sacklers immunity.

Deadly crimes should never equal just fines, but to have the Sacklers pay only a small percentage of what they made pushing OXY's would be a crime in itself.

It is my prayer that this hearing produces more than just a tongue lashing as in the past.

Edward J Bisch

Eddie's Dad

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Gordon Bullard](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Oversight Committee - Sackler Hearings
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 3:12:29 PM

Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
United States House of Representatives
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Maloney and Honorable Committee Members:

I write to applaud your efforts to hold hearings and expose the Sacklers as the architects of the opioid health crisis crippling our nation. I lost my son Cory in August of 2017 as a direct consequence of the opioid crisis that Purdue and the Sacklers meticulously engineered. For years, the Sacklers have been shielded from accountability by strategic and extensive legal maneuvers, backroom deals, and political influence; all fueled by their ill-gotten wealth from the sales of Oxycontin and criminal behavior that contributed to the deaths of over 400,000 Americans...and counting.

Even today, the Sacklers have stalled thousands of civil lawsuits that could expose the truth. And the icing on the cake is that even though they have not filed for bankruptcy themselves, they have twisted the federal bankruptcy code and clouded the judgment of a federal judge to grant them immunity from thousands of current and future civil actions; have got the bankruptcy court to shield documents from the public that could expose their ongoing criminal behavior; have not had to provide the financial disclosures as would anyone else under bankruptcy protection would have to do; and have delayed legal proceedings to give themselves more time to hide more of their blood money in offshore accounts around the globe. Indeed, the Sacklers have made a mockery of the judicial system.

Appallingly, this same federal bankruptcy judge is of the opinion that a courtroom is not the hallowed halls of truth and justice, but rather a venue to structure deals: *“Experienced litigators and certainly judges know that when parties control litigation outcome by well-informed negotiations that lead to agreements, the legal system is working. They know that trials are just that -- matters that result in an outcome of either liable or not liable. They are not some form of public truth serum.”* -- Judge Robert Drain, September 30, 2020 Transcript, Case No. 19-23649-rdd. Who, if not Congress will discover and expose the truth? Certainly not Judge Drain and certainly not DOJ.

On that matter and notwithstanding DOJ’s 2007 debacle of handling Purdue’s prior criminal matter, the DOJ has proved itself once again to be ineffectual and an unaccountable accomplice in the Sackler’s ability to evade true justice. As recently as October 15 2020, 38 members of Congress urged DOJ to construct a settlement that provides *“...just punishment for the offense, and that it affords adequate deterrence to criminal conduct.”* and *“In no way interferes with the ability of other government entities or individuals to take civil or criminal action against Purdue Pharma or any other entity or individual associated with or connected to Purdue’s criminal activities.”* Not only did DOJ

not have the common courtesy and respect to respond to Congress before it finalized the settlement agreement, but it would appear that the DOJ went out of its way to take the complete and opposite action on the recommendations from Congress. To have structured a “deal” where nothing more than a monetary fine is issued to a faceless corporation for intentioned criminal behavior that led to the deaths of over 400,000 people, is morally reprehensible.

It is not a secret that the DOJ has been corrupted by political influence at its highest levels (reference 60 Minutes reports, Washington Post articles, numerous periodicals, books, etc.). Former DOJ/DEA attorneys, now in the private sector, represent big pharma companies like Purdue, and carry with them the DOJ/DEA playbook they took with them as they walked through the agency’s revolving door. It is clear the role that money and political influence has played and continues to play in the disposition of the myriad of Purdue civil cases, the ongoing bankruptcy case, and now once again in criminal matters. It is no small wonder that true justice cannot be served given the extensive reach that big pharma, Purdue in particular, has into the pockets of our elected officials and in the halls of the agencies whose mission it is to protect the general public.

It would appear that the Congress of the United States of America may have lost some of its bite as well. It is not a proud moment when another branch of government shamelessly flips off 38 Members of Congress in such a public manner. I’m not completely surprised though as it seems that under the current administration, so many members of the Executive Branch have felt emboldened to publicly do the same over the past four years.

I urge Congress to stand its ground and exercise its duty to **EXPOSE THE TRUTH**. Hold Purdue, the Sacklers and these agencies accountable by sending a message that Congress will not be ignored. Your hearings with the Sacklers are a good start, but the investigations should extend to all of the agencies that are culpable and that got us to this breaking point.

EXPOSE THE TRUTH. Use your powers to subpoena all the documents in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding and make them public. Congress should expose the facts and the involvement of not only the Sacklers, but of the other pharmaceutical companies and all the agencies involved including DOJ, DEA, and FDA.

EXPOSE THE TRUTH. Use your powers to subpoena all the documents and evidence gathered by DOJ that led to the ill-conceived settlement agreement and make them public as well. Records that are sealed following such a questionable agreement only serve to raise doubts about the legitimacy of a just outcome and further add to the suspicion that political influence and corruption was afoot.

EXPOSE THE TRUTH as to how the agencies’ failures to regulate, either through incompetence, corruption, or being hamstrung by regulatory loopholes and failed policy, has allowed the Opioid Crisis to take hold and flourish. The system isn’t just flawed, it’s broken and it is only a matter of time before another unbridled pharmaceutical product hits the streets and causes more harm. Unless the broken pieces can be identified, they can’t be fixed.

I implore you to restore our faith in the most basic tenet of our Constitution that the American government isn’t about only looking out for those of wealth and privilege. Remind the agencies in

the Executive Branch that when the United States Congress asks questions, answers are not optional. Be bold, be courageous, take action now and show the world that the Congress of the United States of America is a force to be reckoned with in the pursuit of justice for all Americans.

With greatest sincerity and respect,

Gordon Bullard

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Sandra Chavez](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: December 8, 2020 hearing on Purdue's/Sacklers involvement in the opioid crisis victim Jeffrey Lloyd Chavez his parents Lloyd and Sandra Chavez
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:29:23 PM

Oversight and Reform Committee

This letter is to provide an impact on the hearing on Purdue's/ Sacklers involvement in the opioid crisis the four key Sackler family members who were involved in day to day operations at Purdue and Craig Landau, ex CEO of Purdue.

Please enter it on the official hearing record and the Committee's official media page.

This is my statement letters about how the crisis has impacted my family.

Jeffrey Lloyd Chavez at 14 years old was an assault victim the day he first tried opioids he was prescribed them by his maxofacial surgeon who had to wire his jaw shut to allow his jaw to heal. He was in pain initially and had taken these pills as prescribed. Little to anyone's knowledge they changed how he thought about everything. He was an artist and he was ambitious in everything he pursued he had his own custom art business even was awarded the duty to create the school mascot.

For 10 years what was innocently following the doctors orders turned into a nightmare. My sons addiction stole everything from him. There were prescriptions of opioids in our medicine cabinet from our family from surgery injuries and when we ran out he'd pilfer through others. Then his addiction stole his good paying job and he began using IV opioids that caused a blood infection and he died. Why were there so many prescriptions in America? Greed of the Sackler family and they should feel the pain they caused my family.

Since losing my son I have researched on my own why were there so many prescribed opioids in our community when my son was growing up and the marketing of these pills was the result of aggressive marketing of the Sackler family and other opioid companies followed suit and I felt the need to let you know your honor this was greed at my family's expense that my child was just a pawn in their pursuit of money. They should each be held criminally liable they took my only happiness my son. He deserved to live he was a good kid we were good parents and we miss him everyday. If I were to commit a crime I would be held responsible not just monetarily but criminally. That's what I'm asking for criminal charges and for you to pursue the money they siphoned off into some off shore accounts. Take it all and pay for treatment for those still suffering. They need to pay in every way for the countless lives they destroyed and to prevent them from ever have any say in big Pharma again.

Thank you for your time and good judgement,
Mrs Sandra Chavez
Jeffrey's mom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sandra M Chavez [REDACTED]

From: [stopp.now](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: December 8th Meeting.
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 3:06:35 PM

Dear Oversight Committee,

December 2, 2020

I founded STOPPNow (Stop the Organized Pill Pushers) Now due to the drug addicted babies I was caring for as a neonatal intensive care nurse at a children's hospital in Broward County Florida. I would first like to thank your committee for calling Craig Landau, CEO of Purdue and the Sackler family to testify on December 8, 2020. In addition to the NAS babies, through my advocacy I have met many families that have lost loved ones due to drug poisoning.

Too many families have been devastated by the greed and control Purdue and other drug companies and executives have used with one goal in mind - their profit. The human toll was manipulated and hidden. They knew the danger and highly addictive nature of the drug they were pushing. Prison time for their gross corruption should be served.

An act of congress must be passed to include major changes at the FDA which for far too long has been bought and paid for by the drug companies. Employment in the approval division of the FDA cannot continue to be used as a stepping stone to wealth. An investigation of the FDA and a provision put in place to prevent stock options and a seat on the board for rewarding approval of opiates must be added to employ at the FDA. The drug lobbyists also control the laws that are passed many legislators benefit from the lure of campaign finance. Many on this committee. Have integrity - do the right thing. The control the lobbyists enjoy must end if we are to see an end to the suffering of American families all the while the drug companies wealth and control expands. **Change** must occur. Please do not allow this to be just another meeting. My dad used to always say Action speaks louder than Words. The senate investigation in 2012 had all the information needed to end the Opiate Epidemic and the investigation was quashed.

We are out of foster care beds. Our children are suffering . You have the power to be controlled or to make the change necessary.

May God Bless you and America

Janet Colbert
Founder/Author STOPPNow

amazon.com/author/janet-colbert

web: stopnow.com

email: [REDACTED]



	<u>Store # Location</u>	<u>Oxycodone Purchases by Dosage Unit</u>		
		<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
1.	03629 Hudson, FL	388,100	913,900	2,211,700
2.	03099 Ft. Myers, FL	95,800	496,100	2,165,900
3.	06997 Oviedo, FL	80,900	223,500	1,684,900
4.	03836 Port Richey, FL	344,000	849,000	1,406,000
5.	04391 Ft. Pierce, FL	250,000	881,400	1,329,600
6.	04727 Ft. Pierce, FL	153,500	507,100	1,192,000

- An ongoing DEA investigation of Respondent's distribution practices and policies, combined with both a general examination of dispensing at Walgreens Florida pharmacies as well as a detailed investigation of the dispensing practices at the six pharmacies identified above, demonstrates that Respondent has failed to maintain effective controls against the diversion of controlled substances into other than legitimate medical, scientific, and industrial channels, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 823(b)(1) and (e)(1). Respondent failed to conduct adequate due diligence of its retail stores, including but not limited to, the six stores identified above, and continued to distribute large amounts of controlled substances to pharmacies that it knew or should have known were dispensing those controlled substances pursuant to prescriptions written for other than a legitimate medical purpose by practitioners acting outside the usual course of their professional practice. *See Southwood Pharm., Inc.*, 72 Fed. Reg. 36,487 (2007) (revocation based in part on the respondent's recurring distributions of extraordinary quantities of controlled substances to entities that likely diverted the controlled substances by filling unlawful prescriptions, as well as the respondent's failure to conduct due diligence sufficient to protect against the diversion of the controlled substances it distributed).
- DEA's investigation of Respondent also revealed that Walgreens failed to detect and report suspicious orders by its pharmacy customers, in violation of 21 C.F.R. § 1301.74(b). 21 C.F.R. § 1301.74(b) (distributors are required to "design and operate a system to disclose to the registrant suspicious orders of controlled substances . . . suspicious orders include orders of unusual size, orders deviating substantially from a normal pattern, and orders of unusual frequency."); *see also Southwood Pharm., Inc.*, 72 Fed. Reg. at 36,502 (finding that the respondent repeatedly violated federal regulations by failing to report suspicious orders). Walgreens knew or should have known about their obligations to report suspicious orders, as such obligations were spelled out in detail in three letters from DEA's Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, sent to every registered manufacturer and distributor, including Respondent, on September 27, 2006, February 7, 2007, and December 27, 2007. The purpose and proper implementation of suspicious order reporting programs was further discussed in the industry's own trade association, the

<https://www.who.int/csr/don>

with <https://www.who.int/csr/don>



From: [Darlene Collins](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Opioid Crisis
Date: Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:49:29 PM

To the Oversight and Reform Committee and Purdue and the Sacklers,

I was asked to write a letter of how the opioid epidemic has affected our family. On January 11, 2011, our family changed forever. Our son, Brian, was a great kid who liked biking and skateboarding and rock climbing and tubing behind a boat. He loved birds and played football in 8th and 9th grades. He liked fishing at his grandma's house and hanging out with his friends. But he ended up having a problem with drugs. He was addicted to pills...opiates. And that eventually led him to try heroin. He had only been doing heroin for 3 months. He wanted to be free of these drugs so badly, but felt so hopeless. In a note, he wrote he said, "... I love my family, but I am a mess and can't take life anymore. I hate my life. I'm sorry. This is the worst thing I could possibly do to my family, and I hate myself even more for doing this to my family that I love dearly. See you all in Heaven..." I awoke on January 11th, 2011 to find my son lying dead on my kitchen floor where he had shot himself with a shotgun. My son, at the age 19, is now dead because of drugs.

I then had to tell his brother and sisters that Brian was dead. Can you imagine having to tell your children that their brother is dead? That was one of the hardest things I have had to do. And then I had to have a funeral for my son. That definitely was hard. And each day since then is hard. A day doesn't go by that I don't think about Brian. I was left with a big hole in my heart. Brian's brother and sisters and grandma and aunt and friends think of him all the time, too, and miss him terribly. We light a candle to remember Brian on holidays and at family gatherings. There is a big hole in everyone's life where Brian used to be. And nothing and no one can fill that hole. It is just empty. We don't get to hear his laugh anymore or enjoy his sense of humor. Because of drugs, I will never get to see him graduate from college or get married or have children (my grandchildren).

This January, it will be 10 years that we have been without Brian. It has been a very, very long grief journey. For me, the grief never ends because I will never get over having to bury my child. But eventually we all had to learn to live with the hole in our hearts. Somehow, we go on. But there is always someone missing. And that pain and hurt is always right there, just below the surface.

I started going into schools and to youth groups and community meetings to share Brian's Story with our youth. I warn them about opiates and heroin. And I hope and pray that they live a life free from drugs. I don't want any other mother to have to go through what I have had to endure. Through my organization, Be Aware and Beware (BeAwareAndBeware.org), I have been able to share Brian's Story with over 6,000 youth and adults around Wisconsin and even on the other side of the world in Brazil. But I would much rather have my son back and not have to share his story.

Please do the right thing for my son. His name was Brian James Davis.

Thank you,
Darlene Collins





December 15, 2020

Dear Chairperson Maloney,

I am writing this letter to the committee to convey the impact that the deliberately deceptive actions surrounding the safety of the opioid products marketed and sold by the Sackler family and their company have had on my life.

My son, Kevin, fell on the playground at school when he was 10 years old and broke off two of his front teeth and had multiple subsequent root canals. Over the next ten years he was given oxycodone for pain on many occasions. I asked the oral surgeon the first time Kevin took oxycodone if it was addictive and was told "no". I gave Kevin the pills as directed.

In the past few years it has become clear that the medical community was purposefully misled about the addictiveness of the opioid products sold by Purdue-Pharma. My mis-informed decision to give Kevin those oxycodone pills when he was so young has changed my life forever. I live everyday with the guilt that I was the one responsible for Kevin's opioid addiction which eventually led to his accidental overdose death.

Kevin's addictive behavior over the past few years of his life has clouded over the good memories I have of him. My love was twisted into anger and frustration. Mistrust of his actions and fear for his safety had become a way of life for me. On one occasion I held his lifeless body in my arms, praying that the Naloxone I had given him would work and that he would start breathing again. Thankfully it did that day, but this is a memory that has changed me forever.

Worrying about Kevin consumed my thoughts and energy. My marriage and friendships suffered. I was so ashamed of myself for being such a bad parent and not protecting my child from danger. The stigma surrounding addiction kept me from telling anyone. I carried this deep and dark secret with me for years. I have never felt so alone in my life.

Before Kevin's addiction took over we had a very close and loving relationship. He was the baby of the family and we freely gave each other hugs and did a lot of family activities together. His addiction robbed us both of the chance to continue to grow normal family relationships. I will be forever denied the chance to watch Kevin progress into a mature young man and to see him realize the dreams he had for his life. He will never be at our holiday table ever again. He will never again help me put up the Christmas lights and bake bread. I won't get to see him graduate college and fall in love with the person he could share his life with.

If you are a parent, please take a moment to imagine that your child has died. Kevin left me on Valentine's Day, fitting for someone who was loved so much by his family. In my mind his death is a truth that can't be true. My subconscious is trying to protect me from the unimaginable fact that he is gone from this earth. A parent should never have to hold the ashes of their child in their hands and feel the weight of their spirit in a small box.

It is my hope that this committee will openly and honestly examine the role of the Sackler family and Purdue-Pharma in the needless deaths of over 450,000 people and counting. Kevin is the face of one of them.

Respectfully,

Susan Crathern



December 2, 2020

To: Oversight and Reform Committee

I am writing today in regard to Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family.

I have a 36 year old son who in 2002 was prescribed Oxycontin for a high school wrestling injury. I was not familiar with the medication and neither was my son. It was recommended by a licensed doctor so we assumed it was safe.

Little did I know that this would be the beginning of hell for my son and my family. He became addicted quite quickly and over the years this bright, healthy young man has been arrested, overdosed and lost countless friends due to this epidemic. When his need for the medication grew too great, he turned to street drugs, including heroin. Because of his past, he has difficulty getting a job. His addiction has caused him to steal from us and it has profoundly affected our financial well-being. His story is not unique.

No family should have to go through this. I belong to several groups of parents of addicted children. On many occasions I have received messages from moms who ask "Is anyone up to talk?" They may want to talk because they cannot reach their addicted child by phone and they assume the worst or it could be because the worst has already happened.

It is time for the Sacklers and Purdue to take responsibility for the lives that their greed has affected. I have been to so many funerals for young people who have died due to their addiction to this medication. The Sacklers knew what the long-term effects of this medication would be and for them it meant profit. Meanwhile, people are dying and even those who want treatment often can't afford it or can't get into a facility because the beds are full. In the world of addiction, time is of the essence.

Please make the Sacklers pay for what they have done to so many.

Tammy DiBartolo



From: [Judy DiClementi](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: How OxyContin Crisis has impacted me
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:16:03 PM

Dear Oversight Committee,

My son Matthew Steven Kane became addicted to OxyContin in High school a result of the irresponsible marketing of OxyContin.

My son was a normal boy growing up. He loved baseball, hockey and dogs. He had a smile that just made people feel good. He had dreams and was well adjusted. Back then he told me he was the happiest kid he knew.

He made a mistake in high school taking OxyContin a friend shared from parents medicine cabinet and then OxyContin easily purchased on the street. He graduated High school in 2003 opioid addicted. Seeking help at that time with a doctor who specialized in addiction did little to help my son with his addiction because the doctors advise was influenced by Purdue Pharma's lies about the addictiveness of OxyContin.

Matthew spent years trying to control on his own what he couldn't. In 2007 or sometime after he shifted to heroin. Matthew had no insurance and did not want his family to pay for rehab. He dangerously went thru withdrawal on his brothers sofa only to relapse again. Finally broken and near death Matthew asked for help (years now of pain and suffering). We took him to the Hitt Wellness Center in Tijuana Mexico and although the treatment saved his life once again Matthew relapsed. Matthew then got a DUI in November of 2013. He became horribly depressed. Desperate to help him, he went to an outpatient recovery program and to a doctor for Suboxone. Sentenced to weekends in jail for the DUI Matthew agreed to rehab despite he was terrified a 30 day impatient treatment would not be enough and he would die. He was correct. Matt died on 9/22/14.

Matthew left behind an older brother, sister, younger brother with autism, his dad, myself and a Grandmother who dearly loved him. We did the best we could but lacked information to help Matthew. A heavy burden in our thoughts and heart.

The Sackler family's actions contributed every step of the way in our painfully long experience evolving from a little pill called OxyContin. A living nightmare in our American Dream gone so horribly wrong.

Missing my son,
Judy DiClementi

Sent from my iPad

From: [Bill Dougherty](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Purdue Pharma Hearing
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 11:57:27 AM

To the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Our son is Steven Dougherty. He is an opioid addict. Here are part of our experience with opioid addiction:

Up until he was about 17 years old, everything seemed to be fine in his life. When Steven got his driver's license, after failing the first test, he got a traffic ticket or two. He also totaled his SUV in a bridge accident but no one was hurt. He would spend time skateboarding with these friends over that summer. At the end of the summer, we noticed some changes. We found a pill container that contained OxyContin. These signs led us to monitor Steve very closely. Within a week, using technology surveillance we obtained verification that Steven was using drugs with his new friends. We developed a plan, took him to a counselor, had him drug tested, and confronted him with what we knew. He initially tried to lie but eventually could not. He did not deny it and confirmed everything. We were able to remove his association with the friends who he was using drugs with. We took away his phone and sold his minivan to gain more control over him. Through continued counseling and discussions at home, Steve appeared to be on a good track.

He was compliant. And yet, once again, through technology surveillance we found out shortly afterwards he came home from work and after we went to bed he called someone and purchased a pills. In addition, at some point in late 2009, he took 12 OxyContin from an old, unused prescription from when his brother had his wisdom teeth removed.

In monitoring Steven over the past few weeks, we suspect he might have attempted to steal jewelry from a family friend. As a result, we searched his bedroom and found drug paraphernalia. On 1/10, he admitted that if we gave him a drug test he would test positive for opiate. Over the next week, we home detoxed him. He showed mild to moderate withdrawal symptoms. Steven seems to think he does not have a huge problem. "You're treating me like a full-blown addict". What is alarming is that he does not seem to be changing his behavior and learning from mistakes. Opioid addiction steals your brain and your soul.

On 1/15, we demanded that Steven entered a four-night a week out-patient recovery program called Rehab After Work. After some initial good signs he admitted he had taken a Percocet on 1/23 when faced with a urine test. Over the next few weeks, Steven showed signs of improvement. He completed the Rehab After Work program over a two-month period.

One of the requirements of Steven's probation was to pass several urine screens. The probation office required him to go to Maryville for his drug screens. Based on an initial evaluation, Maryville required him to complete a 12 week program that met once a week on Wednesday mornings. He completed it and passed his drug screens. During the end of May 2010, we did a home drug test on Steven. He tried to taint the test and when confronted he admitted that he took a pain pill the day before. We asked him to go to Florida for in-patient treatment. He refused even though he previously signed an agreement to do in-patient treatment if he relapsed. We considered intervention at that time but we disagreed on doing it. We tightened up on

him and watched him carefully.

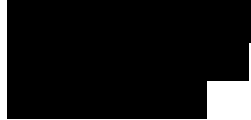
Over the past six months, Steven was fired from his two jobs at different Pizzeria Restaurants. Although, we don't know why, we strongly suspect that the firings were related to the improper life he is leading. He was not responsible enough to maintain these jobs.

Before we could come up with any course of action, Steven was in a car accident on the morning of September 26, 2010. He totaled his car and caused damage to two parked cars. Luckily, no one was hurt. He was taken to the hospital and luckily only cut his lip. He was charged with a DUI. He admitted to us that he crushed and snorted a pain pill the night before.

Steven has continued to have relapses with pain pills. In January, he lied about his usage to the point where he carried around alternate urine and used it when we drug tested him. We threw him out of the house for five days and when he came back he used again within a week. He doesn't seem to think that he has a problem. He continues to do things that will eventually land him in prison, get him seriously injured, or may kill him. He is out of second chances and we haven't seen any sustained positive changes in his life that would allow him to avoid looming consequences.

This is the hell that we went through for four years. But we were lucky. Our son Steven didn't die like so many others have including my best friends son, David. We are convinced that the flood of prescription pain pills in the US was initiated by Purdue Pharma. Purdue caused this awful epidemic that harmed and took so many lives and almost killed our son.

Bill and Kathy Dougherty



From: [Trudy Duffy](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Sackler Family and Purdue Pharma hearing
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 3:16:14 PM

To the Honorable Rep. Carolyn B Maloney and Committee on Oversight and Reform

My son, as a victim of reckless distribution of a highly addictive product, has paid a higher price than any of the Sackler family, owners of Purdue Pharma. While the Sacklers accumulated wealth, we fought as a beleaguered family with an addicted child. The Sacklers were nowhere in sight attempting to mitigate well documented harm. While he was in a fight for his life, the Sacklers withdrew billions of dollars from Purdue.

Ask them to explain that to me.

My son lived and is in recovery with a third degree felony and lost civil liberties. He is one of the lucky ones. Luck for the Sacklers should run out.

Trudy Duffy



Formerly from Florida which was overrun by Oxycontin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: purdue pharma/sackler family oversight committee
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:54:37 AM

To the Oversight Committee:

My nephew, Scott Curnow was a victim of opioids in the early 90's before even the epidemic started. As a teenager he was given pain medicine for a broken bone- and this started his trail to addiction- we now know that the doctors were given vacations or incentives to push this addictive medication. Scott was always a good student but he dropped out of high school in the 9th grade to work in his uncle's garage (my brother)- he became a good mechanic but he came in late too often and was unreliable. Opioids were always his drug of choice- pot and alcohol were not what his brain craved. Even then after such short usage his brain was being changed so that he was getting more and more addicted. Finally in 2002 he asked if he could move in with me, my husband and 10 year old daughter. He stayed clean initially, I think. We had just moved into a new house- so he laid a sidewalk for the front door, finished the basement steps, finished the attic floor, made a TV stand- and still found time for family basketball- fun time with my daughter- he became a member of the house- he attended school to get his drivers license back, and then entered the community college to get his GED at the age of 28 and then enrolled and received his 2 year associates degree in one year- He could do whatever he wanted but all he wanted was opioids. By then he was living in our rental house, working on campus in the Culinary Department, and still seeing us frequently. But I could tell by the way he kept house or did not keep house that something else was foremost in his mind. Scott then debated attending a four year school an hour away or move back close to his uncle in my vacant Mother's house, and attend a college for engineering- he chose to move back to familiar territory and attended the fall semester and found if he was was diagnosed with ADD he could get prescription drugs from campus doctor- So college did not work out, his laptop was sold, he was becoming more dependent on drugs- he tried a half hearted attempt at suicide so his mother paid \$10,000 for a drug rehab that of course did not work- we could not keep him safe so his mother took him back to Maryland and he lived in her basement for 2 years, worked at ACE hardware, everybody loved him, he could fix anything, had very good customer relations- but he remained an addict- he unsuccessfully overdosed on a Thursday, but was successful the following Monday- his mother had to listen to his rasping breathing- and decided not to get help but let him go so that he would be released from his demon at the age of 33.

Our family was unprepared to know how to help Scott. We were educated but not about opioids. Somehow we saw what was happening but kept thinking he would grow out of this- we were not an addictive family- but opioids were so powerful that Scott did not have a chance. Purdue Pharma knew it and the Sackler family made millions off of good families like ours- I need the Sackler family and Purdue Phama to set up drug rehab clinics across the country and serve JAILTIME.

Mary Elmore

Reply Reply All Forward

December 7th, 2020

Dear Members Of The Committee On Oversight and Reform & Members Of Congress,

My name is Anne Emerson, and I would like to share with you how the opioid epidemic has affected my life, by sharing with you, the story of my fiancée Ryan Colt Anderson. Ryan died from a fentanyl overdose 12/3/2017. 4 years prior on October 27th, 2013 his only brother Eric died from a heroin overdose. Ryan battled his substance use disorder for many, many years. It all began in his early 20's when he was prescribed an opioid called Oxycontin, manufactured by Purdue Pharma and the Sackler's. He became "addicted" off his first prescription, which lead him right to the dealers of the next best opioid high, heroin. His physician had no issues prescribing this high potency opioid despite his substance use disorder, why? My opinion is because they received a kick back from Purdue Pharma.

Ryan was an amazing man, with a beautiful smile, and bright blue eyes. His personality lit up the rooms of every place he went. If you were feeling down, he always had the ability to turn your frown upside down. Ryan was loved by so many, including my son Braeden, the 2 were very close.

I met Ryan in 2012, and in the 5 1/2 years we were together, I saved his life 5 times from an opioid overdose, November 28th, 2017 would be his last. Ryan called me at 1:26am and said he was on his way home, ending the call with the last words he would ever speak to me "I love you, see you soon". At 2:10 am, my phone rang, it was Ryans buddy, telling me they were home and asked if I could come out to the truck and help bring ryan inside, he was "passed out" his buddy said. I wasn't prepared for what was to come as soon as I walked out that front door. Ryan was not "passed out", I knew immediately that Ryan had overdosed, he was nearly dead in the passenger seat of his truck. By 2:14am I had given him a dose of Narcan, and was on the phone with 911 doing CPR, he wasn't breathing and I couldn't find a pulse. It took paramedics 6 mins to arrive, it felt like an eternity, tears rolling down my face as I screamed and screamed for someone to please save him, not to let him die. I knew it had to be fentanyl, not heroin because paramedics gave him more narcan and he wasn't waking up, but was breathing again, but clinging on for his life. Ryan went into cardiac arrest upon arrival to the ER.

I arrived to the ER at the same time as the ambulance, and there I sat, by myself, in an empty, cold hallway, waiting for word, any word if he was still alive. 5:28 am the doors opened, and my world stopped as the dr walked towards me, the look on her face and the tone in her voice as she said "have his parents been notified?" I knew it

wasn't going to be good news. His prognosis "is grim" she said, "follow me, ill bring you back to see him". I had no idea what to even expect when I opened those curtains. For hours I sat by myself trying to prepare myself for that moment, but there is no preparing yourself to see the man who you were supposed to spend the rest of your life with, lying there on the gurney, with tubes, and iv's and more tubes everywhere. Lifeless, a ventilator breathing for him. Our lives were forever changed.

In the pocket of Ryans jeans, a baggie of dope, how the paramedics missed it I am not sure, maybe too busy trying to save his life. I had the bag sent to the MN BCA forensics lab to be tested, it was 99.9% pure fentanyl. Sold to him by a drug dealer under the assumption it was heroin, but the dealer knew it was pure fentanyl. To make matters worse, Ryan was given more fentanyl in the ER, as he was already overdosing on fentanyl, they never tested him for fentanyl despite my plea's numerous times a day for the next 4 days, now I know why, they messed up and gave him the same opioid that led him there.

For the next 4 days, I stayed in the icu, not wanting to leave his side. A decision had to be made, one that once it was made, and the plug pulled, there was no turning back. Ryan was taken off life support on December 3rd, 2017 at noon, we were told he'd be gone within 10 mins, the dr had said "he will never be able to breath on his own without this ventilator". I didn't buy it, I called him mom that morning told her we couldn't do it, he wasn't supposed to die, something in my gut was telling me something wasn't right and not to pull him off.

Ryan was still alive after the supposed "10 mins" it should take for his heart to stop without the ventilator. It was the most horrifying, devastating, traumatic event I have ever encountered and wouldn't wish upon my worst enemy, not even the Sackler's. For almost 3 hours, I watched as Ryan gasped for air, choking on his own lung fluid. Fluid due to being on a ventilator and side effects of Narcan. I screamed and screamed for the nurses to help him breath, noone helped him. His heart rate was normal, his respiratory rate was at 12-14, pretty odd for someone who the dr said would not and could not ever breath again on his own. 3 hours, 3 hours later he was still breathing, choking, he opened his one eye, it followed me. The nurse said it was seizure activity, it wasn't and I was sure of it, so was my mom. They messed up by giving him fentanyl in the er and beyond, while keeping him on Narcan via IV, and they seizures he had when they shut the propofol off, I believe was because he was continuing to overdose due to the fentanyl the were giving him.

The nurse was speechless, 10 mins had turned into 3 hours, we were frantic. 4 vials of Ativan, the nurse shot into his iv, followed by multiple vials of morphine, a total of 8 vials of morphine and 4 vials of Ativan yes 8 vials of morphine into his iv, all the while having this look of confusion on his face, Ryan wouldn't die.

He continued to follow me with his left eye, I was crying so hard, telling my mom he wasn't supposed to die, then I heard sound, his voice, in a gurgle say "i love you", my mom heard it too, then his heart stopped. He was gone, the overabundance of morphine and Ativan stopped his still beating heart.

His mother, Polly, had lost her only living son, as Eric and Ryan were her only children, now both dead from opioids. Thinking of her pain, makes my pain feel so small. Everything in our lives has changed. 3 years ago today, December 7th, Ryan was layed to rest next to his brother eric. I cannot express to you the pain that has filled my heart since his death.

If he hadn't been prescribed that Oxycontin years prior that lead to heroin, maybe he would still be alive today. If the Sackler's hadn't kept it hidden that these ultra-high potency opioids they were putting on the streets were highly addictive, maybe he would still be alive.

I refuse to take any type of opioid pain med since Ryans death. I had surgery a few months after he died, I told then do not give me any opioids, when the nurse told me they had given me fentanyl prior to bringing me into the recovery room, I freaked out on her hysterically in tears. I wanted to prove the point that these medications aren't needed, all the do is distort your mind, making you high, tricking your brain into thinking you feel no pain. You still feel pain you're just too messed up in the opioid high. Ibuprofen worked 50 times better than any opioid ever could.

Hundreds of thousands of families have suffered the loss of a loved one because of the opioids coming from Purdue Pharma. As an advocate for the opioid epidemic, and a person in recovery, I have never seen a drug destroy a person's life the way opioids do.

I feel the Sackler's should be held accountable, criminally. We have lost someone, they are never coming home. I get to visit my loved one in a cemetery, while they get to visit theirs in their homes, hugging them, hearing them say "i love you".

My life will never again be the same, my family's life will never again be the same.

Sincerely,
Anne Emerson



From: [Stephen Gelfand](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Re: December 8, 2020 Oversight Meeting on Purdue Pharma and the Sacklers
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:39:22 AM

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Reform
Representative Carolyn Maloney, Chair

Dear Committee Members,

In support of the letters submitted, I have been a medical advisor for over 15 years to this fine group of people who have lost loved ones to OxyContin or suffered other harms as a consequence of the fraudulent marketing of this powerful brain-active opioid painkiller. This resulted in inappropriate overprescribing by doctors of OxyContin and other opioids on a massive scale, the pills of which flooded into our homes and schools while causing the overdose deaths and opioid addictions of millions. After the introduction of OxyContin in 1995 by Purdue Pharma, indications for opioids were greatly broadened by the FDA (with the approval of inadequate short-term studies of OxyContin for chronic noncancer pain), but with a lack of medical evidence for safety and long-term effectiveness for this indication, as required by the FDA. These same negative findings have repeatedly been demonstrated by multiple additional medical research studies, as the toll of opioid-related addictions and overdose deaths has progressively mounted.

The above opioid epidemic originated from the decisions and actions of the Board of Directors of Purdue Pharma run by the Sackler family under the direction of Dr. Richard Sackler, whose intent was to sell more and more OxyContin for profit without consideration of the human consequences. One of Richard Sackler's tactics to avoid responsibility for his misdeeds, was to "blame the victims" of addiction to OxyContin by calling them "reckless criminals," as documented in the legal complaint of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Sacklers have now escaped criminal prosecution by the DOJ twice, first in 2007, and again last month; this is a miscarriage of justice and an insult to the numerous victims of the opioid epidemic and their families.

The Sacklers ignored the regulatory provisions of the 2007 DOJ agreement while orchestrating billions more in OxyContin sales during the following years which resulted in a growing additional toll of addictions and overdose deaths.

This great increase in the volume of people with opioid addiction subsequently led to a second epidemic of illicit opioids, both heroin and fentanyl, with a even greater increase in opioid-related overdose deaths which have risen even further during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

It is clear that the current major objective of the Sacklers is to gain individual immunity from criminal prosecution while remaining billionaires, as clearly demonstrated by the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings of their company, Purdue Pharma, the nonhuman "sacrificial lamb."

There is a glaring inconsistency here and double standard when such an abundance of incriminating evidence and common sense has been brushed aside by legal manipulation and

billionaire influence and privilege, while justice continues to be subverted.

It is hoped that your oversight committee can see through all the roadblocks and weeds and hold accountable and criminally liable the above individuals who have played a major role in initiating the opioid epidemic while personally profiting from OxyContin sales boosted by their medically unsound, dangerous and lethal decisions and misdeeds. This nefarious behavior, resembling that of organized crime syndicates, has been responsible for terminating or ruining countless lives, while adversely affecting the public health and practice of medicine in this nation.

Thank you kindly for your interest in this vital area of healthcare.

Stephen G. Gelfand, MD, FACP
Rheumatology Consultant and Medical Advisor on the Opioid Epidemic

[REDACTED]

12/3/20

From: [Stephen Gelfand](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Re: December 15, 2020 Oversight Meeting on Purdue Pharma and the Sacklers
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:28:49 PM

Additional information for above House Oversight Committee Meeting: Letter to Judge Drain
re: the Sacklers' professional medical history with addictive drugs.

 [LETTER TO JUDGE DRAIN-.pdf](#)

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020, 8:39 AM Stephen Gelfand <[REDACTED]> wrote:

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Reform
Representative Carolyn Maloney, Chair

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Thank you kindly for your interest in this vital area of healthcare.

Stephen G. Gelfand, MD, FACP
Rheumatology Consultant and Medical Advisor on the Opioid Epidemic

12/3/20

Honorable Robert Drain

May 11, 2020

United States Bankruptcy Judge

United States Bankruptcy Court

Southern District of New York

300 Quarropas Street

White Plains, New York 10601-4140

Re: Purdue Pharma L.P., et al, Case No. 19-23649 [RDD]

Dear Judge Drain:

This is an addition to the letter I wrote to you in October, 2019 against the proposed settlement for Purdue Pharma in bankruptcy court which absolves the Sacklers of responsibility for the opioid epidemic which has taken the lives of nearly 400,000 Americans with multiples more suffering from the potentially lethal disease of opioid addiction.

For the past 17 years, I have been involved as a medical advisor for groups of people who have lost loved ones to opioids. I attended the 2007 federal trial of the three Purdue Pharma executives at which many of these people gave heart-wrenching testimonies about their deceased loved ones who died while having no idea about the dangers of OxyContin and other prescription opioids. My medical practice of internal medicine and rheumatology has extended over 40 years which spanned two medical generations, including the heroin

epidemic of NYC in the late 60's and early 70's during which, as a resident in internal medicine in NYC, I cared for patients with some of the most severe complications of heroin, while becoming very familiar with the many adverse effects of opioids on both the human body and brain. At the onset of the current opioid epidemic many years later, I couldn't believe that OxyContin and other opioids were being promoted and prescribed so broadly and non-selectively for almost anyone with pain. In 2010, I became a founding member and the Rheumatology Consultant for Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, the leading national group of medical experts of multiple specialties who have addressed needed recommendations and potential solutions to the opioid epidemic from different perspectives.

This public health epidemic, which has been called the worst in the nation's history by the CDC, was made possible from its onset by a medical doctor, Richard Sackler, who was also trained in NYC at NYU Medical School during the above earlier heroin epidemic. Unless he slept his way through medical school, he should have learned from this experience about the dangers of opioids, especially when used across-the-board for all types of pain, well beyond their accepted use for the pain of cancer, end-of-life, acute traumatic and surgical conditions, and selected patients with severe chronic noncancer pain. Instead, he decided to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Arthur Sackler, who took advantage of the known effects of dependency and addiction with the chronic use of Valium, by

marketing this potent brain-active tranquilizer for all degrees of anxiety, especially to housewives for the minor stresses and tensions of everyday living. But this was the formula which guaranteed repeated refills with a massive increase in prescribing, sales and profits, which Richard Sackler then applied to OxyContin. By promoting this addictive opioid for all types and degrees of pain, he lied about both its benefits, which he markedly overstated, and its risks, which he grossly understated, while calling those unfortunate patients who became addicted to OxyContin, “reckless criminals.” He did this despite a lack of scientific evidence showing that opioids were safe and effective long-term for chronic pain. And the rest of the story became the tragic history of the last 20 years which we have all lived through.

It is clear that Richard Sackler possessed the medical knowledge which could have been used for the benefit of humanity, but instead he used it for his and his family’s personal gain, and blatantly violated the first dictum of medicine to “first do no harm.” It was a glaring example of fraud as a result of distorted medical and ethical priorities, which disgraced the once proud profession of medicine and lowered the quality of medical care. His fraudulent marketing directly led to the greatly expanded prescribing of opioids for all types and degrees of pain which was the nidus for the tremendous volume of opioid-related death and addiction, and the other grave consequences of the opioid epidemic. These are the consequences which countless

people, including all those who protested at the 2007 federal trial of Purdue, have experienced and suffered through.

He should be held accountable and made to pay for his crimes under established criminal statutes, which is but small atonement for the incalculable devastation he has inflicted upon the public health and American society, which will last for many more years. And this is precisely why any settlement which allows him and the rest of the Sackler family members who sat on Purdue's Board of Directors, as well as Purdue Pharma, to escape accountability, should be clearly rejected.

In addition, in support of the request of Harrison Cullen filed on 5/6/20 and others, all the family members who lost loved ones and are filing claims against Purdue Pharma, that, in view of all the hardships and obstacles imposed by COVID-19, they should be given sufficient time to file, and at the very least, the deadline should be extended from June 30th to September 30th, 2020.

Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Gelfand, MD, FACP, FACR

Rheumatology Consultant, disability peer-reviewer and legal medical expert

████████████████████

[REDACTED]

Mailing address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

December 3, 2020

TO: Representative Carolyn Maloney, Chair
Committee of Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

RE: Hearing on Purdue Pharma and Sackler Family Members, December 8, 2020

Dear Ms. Maloney,

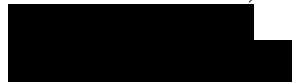
I need to tell you that I believe Purdue Pharma, and specifically Sackler family members who promoted company efforts to increase the sales of Oxycontin, directly contributed to the death of my son James in 2014. James was a young ski lift operator and snowboarding instructor at the Sun Valley Resort in Ketchum, Idaho, for several years beginning in 1999. Like many of his friends there, he suffered some sports injuries. He was prescribed large numbers of Oxycontin pills at a medical clinic nearby – often receiving 60 pills for a simple sprain or 90+ pills for a small broken bone. All of the young people who worked in the town and played sports together received similar huge allotments of pills. Soon, the town was literally awash in these pills, and they became a “barter currency.” People would pay various numbers of pills for services or favors, such as free pizzas or rides in taxis. The prescribing situation was absolutely outside of any normal or reasonable bounds!

Of course we, as parents, had no idea. We found out when it was too late. My son came home thoroughly addicted and struggled for years. He went to multiple treatments, but his body craved the Oxycontin. He died. Many of his group of friends in Sun Valley have struggled with addiction ever since their time there.

I support the harshest penalties possible for Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family members who participated in the company. Their guilt is personal, and their punishments should reflect that personal guilt.

Thank you.

Michele S. Gerber, Ph.D.

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Mary Anne Gibson](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Purdue Pharma & the Opioid Crisis
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:28:19 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Our only son was born in 1983 and attended high school from 1998 through 2001. During this time, Purdue Pharma was flooding the market with Opioids claiming that they were non-addictive and pushing doctors to readily prescribe them knowing that, in fact, the claim was not true.

Our streets and high schools were filled with young folks who easily obtained this drug for use and for selling. We live in a rural area of Pennsylvania and yet many of our son's school mates have suffered huge addiction problems that have remained persistent in their lives and some have even lost their lives.

In an effort to remain brief, the following is a BRIEF history of what has ensued in our lives because of their lies and pursuit of profit.

Since 2001, our son has been in and out of many rehab facilities. (Most for a few weeks or a couple of months which is a total waste since it takes much longer for an addict to repair his life and addiction. This of course is dictated by the insurance companies but that is a whole different subject.) We as a family (including our extended family) have been victims of financial ruin through trying to support him and the thievery that he perpetrated to support his addiction.

Our son has put together some "clean time", once for as long as 3 years but most periods were much shorter. (As I write this he now has 1 year clean.) In that process he became a step-father to a 2 year old boy and then another son. They are now 11 & 6, without their father and struggling emotionally as to why he is not present in their lives. So you see, the wreckage of lives continues on and on and on.

In addition, our son has suffered numerous health problems from the effects of this drug, including, but not limited to: severe headaches, restless leg syndrome and; worst of all, Crohns Disease which has caused him to now have to wear a colostomy bag (there is not history of these problems anywhere in our families).

This is just a small glimpse into the hell our lives have become. Thank You Purdue Pharma and your incredible greed.

Respectfullu Submitted,
Gary and Mary Anne Gibson



December 1, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and esteemed members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform,

I am writing to thank you for your action in inviting Craig Landau and four members of the Sackler family to testify regarding their role in fueling the opioid epidemic.

In 2014 I was prescribed OxyContin for a wrist surgery, which led to a three year battle with addiction. I then formed an organization called P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now), which is a small group of activists, artists and people with substance use disorder. We have for three years fought to bring awareness to the Sackler family's role in igniting the opioid crisis. We've held direct actions at major museums in America and Europe to shed light on their toxic philanthropy, and have launched public awareness campaigns that combat stigma, fight for harm reduction and call for accountability from the pharmaceutical company for their unmitigated greed. We've succeeded in pushing many museums and universities to refuse future funding and in several cases, take down their name. We have for years hoped that these criminals would be given appropriate punishment by the courts, but their power, influence and legal army has invariably provided them a way out.

Now the Oversight Committee is providing an opportunity to do it right this time; to put the Sackler family on the stand and allow the American public to watch them questioned in full view.

For this I am truly grateful.

It is my greatest hope that as a result of the hearings the following transpires:

1) **ALL Purdue/Sackler documents are disclosed**

Our Ad-Hoc committee in Purdue Pharma's bankruptcy case views these documents as their most valuable asset. As creditors, we value these documents more than money. We deserve a right to know how this crisis was manufactured. All of Purdue's documents should be turned over to a disclosure trust, overseen by a board of independent journalists and be made available for online publishing.

2) **There is an examination of the process by which the DOJ settlements with Purdue and the Sacklers were formulated.** In 2007, a Justice Department "prosecution memo" was buried by senior officials and Purdue executives; the company and the Sacklers therefore got off with a slap on the wrist and was granted the secrecy they fought for. 250,000 more people died between that settlement and the current settlement. The

current settlement is a replay of 2007. History is repeating itself. The public deserves to know every detail of how these settlements were reached.

3) The Sacklers are not allowed to walk away billionaires.

The Sacklers have spent years funnelling billions into offshore accounts with the understanding that future lawsuits against them were inevitable. If the Sacklers are permitted to walk away from their OxyContin business richer than when they started it, this case will show the world that pharma executives can break the law and keep profits. There will be no reason for rich and powerful people to follow the law.

4) Purdue is not made a “public benefit company”.

There are numerous reasons why turning Purdue into a PBC is an appalling idea; among them is the obvious conflict of interest between government ownership and its law enforcement obligation. In addition, as a taxpayer who almost lost my life to OxyContin, the idea of owning a stake in profits from sales of the drug is abhorrent to me. We, the creditors, don't want to profit off the sales of the same drug that caused us so much damage and loss. And, quite clearly, the plan allows Purdue/Sacklers to inflate the value of their proposed settlement and make past financial records disappear.

I know the opioid crisis in my body and try my best to speak for the 450,000 who no longer can. Thank you for persisting in your endeavors to bring the truth to light and criminals to justice.

With Sincere Thanks,

Nan Goldin

December 15th 2020

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and esteemed members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform,

I thank you for the tough and very thorough work the Committee is doing to hold the Sacklers accountable.

My name is Nan Goldin, I'm an artist, activist and a survivor of the opioid crisis. I was prescribed a high dose of OxyContin following a wrist surgery in 2014 and became addicted within a few days while using as prescribed. OxyContin took away years of my life, damaged me emotionally, physically, and financially, and almost ended my career of 50 years.

Before OxyContin, I traveled constantly and showed my work in museums around the world. My life had been reduced to a hermetic state. People stay on it forever because of the fear of withdrawal. And withdrawal is a form of torture beyond words. You have no skin. It's a darkness without end. I overdosed in 2017 and spent several months in a detox clinic. I got excellent treatment that is prohibitively expensive for most people.

After getting sober in 2017, I started a group called P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now) to expose the Sackler family's role in igniting the Opioid crisis. We focused on their toxic philanthropy through direct action in museums and universities bearing their name. Within a year of our actions, many museums and universities in America and Europe refused their funding and distanced themselves from the family. After our July 2019 action at the Louvre Museum, they removed the Sackler name from their walls. I started these actions in spite of my work being in the collections of these museums, at great risk to my career. Now, we have followed the Sackler's and Purdue into the courts.

We witnessed the Department of Justice settlement with great distress. It is not enough to see a company charged with crimes, we must see the Individuals who controlled it held accountable. It's clear from all the documents revealed that they micromanaged their private Pharma company and were in full control of this evil empire. It's not enough to hold brick and mortar accountable and not actual people. One family is largely responsible for the onset of this crisis that has led to the deaths of over 450,000 people. In their unmitigated greed and cynicism they even saw overdoses as a way to increase their profits.

Each time there has been a release of documents from the AG offices of New York or Massachusetts revealing their crimes, we have been encouraged that they will be

brought to justice. We always expect it will affect the outcome of the investigations into the family and their private pharmaceutical company. But they have not yet had the effect that we've hoped for.

No settlement must be agreed on that provides the Sacklers with criminal immunity. The prisons are full of people incarcerated for low level drug dealing, most to support their own habits. Yet this cartel of high level drug dealers could walk free with their billions. I don't want the justice system of America to be for sale.

The Sacklers have managed to hide their criminal liability in bankruptcy court and fight for a settlement that will grant them immunity in return for a tiny fraction of the enormous wealth they accrued from their best selling drug OxyContin. It's more appropriate to bring RICO charges against this criminal enterprise that is clearly guilty of conspiracy and racketeering. They should be behind bars. It seemed to be a discussion in Judge Polster's MDL case. We hope you will fight for that. We hope the Oversight Committee can further investigate the Justice Department's current settlement with the family, and encourage the possibility of criminal charges. If the Sacklers lie under oath, they need to be held accountable and charged with perjury. The Sacklers must not get away with profiting off a national health crisis that they initiated.

We hope the Congressional hearings on Thursday will have an effect.

Thank you,

Nan Goldin
Founder of P.A.I.N.
(Prescription Addiction Intervention Now)
sacklerpain.org

Samuel Robert Ahnemann was born on 9/27/94 and died in Seattle on 4/25/2020 at the age of 25 years, 6 months and 29 days of an accidental opioid overdose. He had purchased what was sold to him as Oxy 30 mg which he took orally and died almost immediately. The toxicology results showed no oxycodone, but fentanyl. Sam had injured his back earlier that week and after chiropractic care, massage, heat, Tylenol and Naprosyn, he resorted to street narcotics to ease his pain so he could continue working.

Sam was a beautiful human being both physically and spiritually. He had no enemies. He was in the gifted program in school as well as being a very gifted athlete in multiple sports. He was the ace pitcher of his little league team leading them to undefeated seasons and was the quarterback of his high school football team. He was introduced to OxyContin in our small town of Clinton, MO by a friend who worked at a local pharmacy, who was stealing them and selling them. Sam did not become addicted at that time but was abusing them. This was at the height of OxyContin being marketed for “nonaddicting” pain relief, as this lie was being sold to the American public and physicians. Sam did not know they were dangerous. He did not use opiates from 7/2011 until he was in a motor accident as a passenger in 2013, and underwent a series of three surgeries over the next 7 months. Each time he was prescribed Percocet. His liking grew for narcotics. In February 2015, he was in another motor vehicle and had to have extensive facial reconstruction for a fractured nose, shattered right maxillary sinus, and fractured right zygomatic arch. He was prescribed more Percocet for post accident pain and then post operative pain and at that point after finishing a long stretch of prescribed opiates he started getting them from the street again off and on. After this accident in which he also suffered a concussion, (his airbag didn’t deploy), he developed a seizure disorder and had several seizures over the next few years with multiple ER visits, MRIs, EEGs as well as Neurologist appointments. One of these seizures happened while he was driving; luckily no one was injured but he totaled 5 cars. He went to The Discovery Place, a drug rehabilitation place in Burns, Tennessee in June of 2015. In May of 2016, he was hiking with some friends, jumped off an overhang and slipped, fracturing L3. He was on IV Fentanyl while in the hospital and then oral Percocet. This time he became physically addicted and started using more. By November of 2016, he was using Oxycodone and heroin IV. In December 2016, he threatened suicide and was placed on a 96 hour hold in a psychiatric facility. He was depressed, suffering from a mood disorder from opioid use. He was in another accident in August of 2017 while high on opiates and fractured his

nose and frontal sinus as well as suffering a disfiguring laceration to his forehead which required plastic surgery. Again he was prescribed more Oxycodone. By December 2017, his girlfriend of 10 years broke up with him secondary to his drug habit and he became a daily IV user. In March of 2018, he came to me and wanted help to get off opiates. He had already given up IV use and was getting Methadone from the street to prevent withdrawal. He was started on a Butrans patch by his family physician, and was slowly tapered from 10 mg to 5 mg over the next 3 months; then it was discontinued. He was finally opioid free. He graduated from college with his degree in Criminal Justice in May of 2019, and started working for AmeriCorps in Seattle, Washington, as a science tutor, as well as volunteering as an assistant on the football team and as a weightlifting coach. He had a slight relapse on cocaine when he got depressed with the dreary Seattle weather and went to Sunset Malibu Rehabilitation in January of 2020 in Malibu, California. After that he returned to Seattle and was working in a specialty deli as a butcher.

Then on April 20, 2020, came his final injury, a back injury from a skateboarding accident and subsequently his accidental overdose death on fentanyl, sold as Oxy 30 on 4/25/2020. He took it orally, laid down on his heating pad and died.

His three siblings and I are devastated. Sam had a long life ahead of him. He was moving to Santa Barbara, California, and returning to school in the fall to get his degree in landscaping with plans to start his own business. He had a girlfriend; I had dreams of future grandchildren; he had dreams of marriage and his own business. Now we have nothing but broken hearts. We have been deprived of our son and brother until we join him in death. He has years of lost wages; we have years of lost consortium. Opioids, specifically beginning with OxyContin led him into addiction which cost tens of thousands of dollars in medical expenses, legal expenses due to drug and alcohol charges, motor vehicle accidents causing pain, disfigurement and seizures from head injury, failed college classes, rehab expenses, private counseling, outpatient treatment, medication expenses to treat his anxiety and depression caused by his opiate addiction, and ultimately the expenses of his death, including a devastating painful trip to Seattle to retrieve his ashes and belongings and his funeral, all of which pale in comparison to the incalculable cost to our family with the loss of his life.

I feel we are due compensation from Purdue Pharmaceutical for the large cost of his addiction and loss of his life in view of their deceptive marketing, in spite of their knowledge that Oxycontin was indeed a very addictive drug. Their callous disregard for human life and suffering all due to pure greed is criminal.

I am no stranger to drug abuse and treatment as I specialize in addiction medicine at a federally qualified health care center in Clinton, MO. I am exposed daily to the fallout from Purdue's false marketing.

Sincerely yours,
Janet L Hankins, M.D. (Sam's mom)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Loss of my 21 year old son
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:57:00 AM

My soon hurt his back at work and went to a Dr. Tauraso who have him oxycontin. He got addicted to them. He Was Taking 8 oxy 80s a day. That Ended Up Being 8 at a time. He was arrested one night for driving to fast. He Took All His Pills When They Pulled Him Over. He Then Went Through A bad withdrawal. With No One In The Detention Center Who Cared About How He Was Feeling. My Only Soon 21 Years Old Hung Himself In A cold jail cell because he couldn't take the pain and sickness of the withdrawal. These Individuals Shouldn't Get Any Of The Money They Made From Killing people. We The Parents Suffer Everyday Without Or Children.

Thank You,
Annette Hanlin-Cooney

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

November 30, 2020

United States House of Representatives
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, Chair
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Purdue Pharma and Sackler Family Hearing

Dear Representative Maloney,

Thank you for scheduling a hearing and inviting Purdue Pharma President and CEO Craig Landau and four members of the Sackler family to appear before your committee. As I stated in my letter to you of November 2nd, I lost my eighteen year-old daughter Emily in 2006 after she consumed one OxyContin pill. In May of 2007 I testified at the Purdue sentencing hearing in Abingdon, Virginia, I became an advocate for more cautious opioid prescribing, and I have testified at many FDA hearings. Since the 2007 felony conviction, I watched as Purdue carried on with business as usual. A 120-page prosecution memo which included several felony charges against the company was buried by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2007, and Purdue went on to continue with its aggressive marketing and unethical, illegal business practices as though nothing had changed.

The current proposed settlement between DOJ and Purdue sounds a lot like the plea agreement back in 2007 – financial penalties, but no jail time, and no admission of individual wrongdoing. Once again, there is NO JUSTICE for the many families who have suffered a lost loved one or an addiction to this drug.

This hearing offers an opportunity to hear from victims as to what they have been through. Our voice is not being heard in the ongoing bankruptcy and DOJ settlement proceedings, yet we have a unique perspective as to how this company's conduct has affected real people. The victims of this epidemic desperately want the full truth to come out about this company's conduct along with the role of the Sacklers in causing the opioid epidemic. This should begin with the 120-page prosecution memo from 2007 that never saw the light of day, and it should continue right through the current proposed settlement. Only by a full public disclosure of this company's actions, along with those of the Sacklers, can the public understand exactly how the opioid epidemic was spawned and can our elected representatives understand what needs to be done to avoid more such tragedies in the future.

I also request that your committee examine the proposed settlement to investigate how a company can be charged with felonies but no individual executives or owners are charged with a crime. It will also be important to investigate the Sackler family that owns Purdue so that your committee can understand the role of the owners in the crimes that have been alleged. Finally, I feel very strongly that allowing Purdue to be converted into a Public Benefit Company, thereby putting our government in the opioid

marketing business, is an offensive and disgusting idea to anyone who has lost a loved one to OxyContin. Please do what you can to head this off as part of any settlement agreement.

Once again, my most sincere thanks for scheduling this hearing. Please contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if I can of further assistance. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Peter W. Jackson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Allie Kane](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: How OxyContin Crisis Impacted me
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 7:28:33 PM

I was only 10 years old when my brother Matt made the mistake in High school and took OxyContin.

I was 23 years old when my brother Matt died from that mistake 9/22/2014.

My family hurts everyday.

I'm angry, sad, and confused why the people responsible for so much pain, suffering and loss of life have not been brought to justice.

You can not put a price tag on human life.

I will forever be haunted by the night my mom found my brother.

We could not save him.

I loved my brother.

Allie Kane

From: [Richard Kane](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: How the OxyContin crisis has affected me
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:06:31 PM

Dear Oversight and Reform Committee,

I lost my brother Matthew Kane to an opiate overdose in September 2014. My brother was a kind and caring individual, who even through his worst years would still give a homeless person his Subway sandwich or a shirt off his back. I know Matt would do these kind gestures because he also knew what it felt like to struggle emotionally and physically in life.

Matt was addicted to OxyContin before he graduated high school in 2003. He lived the last 11 years of his short life in a constant battle of a disease that only 5% of people ever truly make a full recovery from.

That early morning on September 22nd, 2014 would change our lives forever. My mom found my brother unconscious and not breathing. He was rushed to the hospital but died shortly after.

My younger, autistic brother Daniel not only lost his brother, he lost his best friend. Matt would wait for Daniel everyday to come home from school and shoot the hockey puck around with him. This was one of Daniel's favorite things to do, and Matt's too. Daniel to this day will barely talk about him.

To me, I live in Los Angeles which is about 3,000 miles from home. I recently had sinus surgery on that Friday and was recovering on the couch when my wife's phone rang and she left the room to go outside. When she came back in she had this look on her face and I thought something happened to my grandmother, but it was my brother Matt. I completely broke down.

I don't think I'll ever fully recover from that day. Those next 7 days were the hardest time of my life and even continued years later. I lost my job after I returned home and I completely became unmotivated to do anything that I used to love.

I was very upset and angry on a daily basis afterwards, even to this day I still am. I can't talk about the opioid epidemic without losing my emotions. I honestly can go on and on for ever talking about how much my brother's death effected me and my family, but I don't even think the Sackler family will even care to listen. At the end of the day, it was all about greed and how many billions of dollars are in their personal bank accounts.

Lori Laughlin and Felicity Huffman get jail time because they cheated to get their kids into college; Martha Stewart did some inside trading and spent time behind bars, but Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family are responsible for the deaths of over 500,000 human beings and get a free pass and stay billionaires. What is wrong with society? And of course the media spent more time covering the stories of Becky from Full House in 1 hour than they ever had on the opioid epidemic over the last 5 years. It's so disgusting!

These people deserve to hit rock bottom like my brother did. I hope justice is served and they spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

Sincerely,

-Richard Kane

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeremiah Lindemann](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Opioid Epidemic Hearing with Purdue Pharma
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:26:34 AM

Hello,

I am writing to share my story about the opioid epidemic for the Purdue Pharma hearing on Dec 8th.

My little brother JT died on Sept 13, 2007 from opioids. He was my best man at my wedding, a best friend to many, a new dad and had an amazing smile and personality that brighten the day for anyone.

He struggled with addiction for a few years, and was in treatment a couple times. When in treatment he was very candid about his story. He talked about how he discovered how good oxycontin was after getting wisdom out. He said that it didn't take long to discover he could get it anywhere. Go into a doctor and say he wasn't feeling well. Go into a bar and find others that had it via legal prescriptions that would. He said it was everywhere and not hard to get. To be honest I was so confused at the time, I had never heard of oxycontin in 2006 when he was telling me this but apparently it had its grasp on so many millions already.

After JT passed I was real quiet about it. It isn't easy to say "my brother died from an overdose. But after a few years, I realized this is such a problem I wanted to tell stories. I met other families and created this map below where families can add their loved ones. Click each picture to see their story. Recently the National Safety Council took on this map since it is so popular (nearly 2,500 people are on the map).

<https://nscsafety.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/attachmentviewer/index.html?appid=1709030e6f054a67b576857d844d2ed4>

Most those 2,500 people have similar stories, and many would still be with us if it wasn't for the greed of people like Purdue Pharma. This is also just a subset of people that have found the map on social media and are willing to share their story- most families are still stigmatized by talking being impacted by addiction. Addiction has been around for centuries. Purdue didn't invent addiction. But they saw a fire they could pour tons of gasoline on and profit from. Their work is the direct contributions of tens of thousands of deaths in our country. It isn't just death, families struggling and financial impact that isn't spoken about.

Happy to discuss further,

Jeremiah Lindemann


From: [Susan](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Our son Geoffrey's death
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:27:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the chance to submit a testimonial and for giving us a chance to speak for our son Geoffrey James, age 35, who passed away last year. We also speak for his toddler son, Nicholas, who was left without his father, who loved him so much. He tells us Daddy is up in the sky with God.

Legal opioid prescriptions for pain relief were given to Geoffrey for sports injuries etc when he was in his late teens and twenties. This treatment with opioids, which often lasted for over a year at a time, led to his eventual dependency, which ultimately led to heroin use. It was not common knowledge at the time that these legal opioids were highly addictive and were essentially heroin in pill form. But Purdue knew. Geoff struggled for many years and did well in rehab, multiple times. But his sobriety only lasted weeks, sometimes a few months. And he eventually could not win against the damage to his body and brain. He died on May 5, 2019. Our family has lost our gentle, kind, caring Geoff. He had a bright future ahead of him. He played saxophone. He played baseball for many years, including as catcher for his high school team. He attended college. And wrote music. He wrote fiction and hoped to be a writer.

When Geoff was a colicky infant, he was prescribed phenobarbital. When we found out that one of the possible adverse effects was death, we threw that medication away, unused. We were always careful with medication. None of us had any idea that his prescription medication and heroin were nearly chemically identical and that opioid meds were as highly addictive as heroin. Our family respects the medical professions. Our son was given these medications by doctors. Some caring doctors and at least 2 "prescription mill" doctors who were later arrested. Who will ever know if any of these doctors who prescribed these medications knew how truly addictive they were. But Purdue knew.

Geoffrey's brother was severely injured in an accident, at the age of 18, and was treated with opioids for many years. He became addicted. Both of our sons have been victims of legal medical treatment that directly led to addiction. And Purdue KNEW that their products were as addictive as heroin.

Much of society looks down on drug addicts. They live very sad, unhealthy lives. Their families struggle as the addicts themselves struggle. This did not have to be. And Purdue did not and does not care. Medication that was supposed to help heal our sons and all of the other thousands upon thousands of patients has destroyed them. This was always about the money for this company.

Thank you very much. May you have a happy and healthy Christmas holiday.

Douglas and Susan Linderman



December 7, 2020

TO: The House Committee on Oversight and Reform

FROM: Alanna Nash, on the accidental death of my partner from prescription opioids.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on the role of Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family, in fueling the opioid epidemic, one of the deadliest public health disasters in the history of America.

My life has been wrecked by the actions of the Sacklers, as my partner of 16 years, Elizabeth Jean Clifford, died of an accidental overdose of hydrocodone and acetaminophen on September 1, 2017. She had been prescribed Oxycontin and other opioids after various surgeries—hysterectomy, breast cancer, and double knee replacements—and she got addicted to them. She could not control her use. She spiraled and spun out of control. Her addiction took over her life. More to the point, it sucked the life out of her. It turned her into someone I did not recognize.

Elizabeth beat breast cancer, even as chemo made her sick and wretch and wish she might die, and caused her beautiful brunette hair to fall out. And radiation burned her until her chest turned a fiery red and her pale skin sloughed off in sheets. I held her hand all through it. And she survived, and persevered. She also said she hoped she never saw another opioid in her life.

So yes, Elizabeth's will to live was so strong that she was able to overcome what kills many women. After double knee surgery, though, she was no match for doctors who kept her on a high dose of opioids for three years and four months, until death.

It was not her fault. Her addiction stalked her like prey, like the python that consumes a crocodile whole, slowly stretching its jaws around the constricted form. This is what happened to her. She was stunned, constricted, and swallowed whole.

I can never get out of my mind the sight of finding her dead. And I will never forget the sound of

the zipper on the body bag as the coroner took her out the door.

Purdue Pharma stole the love of my life from me. She was 59 years old. I am now 70, and will have to live out the rest of my years broken, angry, and alone. Every birthday, every Christmas, every anniversary of her death, every hour of every day, I miss her and rage at the people she put her trust in, in whose hands she put her health and her very life, and who recklessly and thoughtlessly killed her.

Each night, I eat my dinner with her photograph at my plate, so I can pretend she is sitting next to me. I fantasize about our dream of retiring to a cabin in Wisconsin's Northwoods. I talk to her and long to hear her voice in return. I sink into depression. More than three years after her death, I am still in grief therapy.

This was a preventable, and yet inevitable death, the result of Purdue's knowing and evil deception to doctors and patients about the potential for misuse and addiction, and their immoral, insatiable greed.

Please, members of the House, I beg you: Don't let them get away with this! They violated the public trust, and the people who turned to them for help. They ruined families. They ruined my life!

They need to make amends to these haunted survivors.

Sincerely,

Alanna Nash

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

From: [Leona Nuss](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: December 8, 2020 Sackler Family
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:14:59 PM

United States House of Representatives
House Committee on Oversight Reform
Representative Carolyn. B. Maloney Chair
Washington D.C. 20501

December 8, 2020

Dear Esteemed Committee Members, thank you for letting me submit a statement in regards to the criminal Sackler family.

My husband Randall and I lost our only son Randall Matthew we had together on May 1st., 2003 due to an accidental overdose of Oxycontin. My son was left to die alone in Daytona Beach Fl.

My son had gotten the Oxycontin off the streets. It didn't matter where it came from a prescription had to be written and filled. Who to blame the Greedy Pill Mill Doctor, Purdue Pharma the manufacturer or the owners the Sacklers who chose profits over lives.

My grieving was unbearable until I met Edward Bisch founder of R.A.P.P. that was 2003. We became very good friends and have been working endlessly to stop Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family.

I had attended many protests, the whistle blower trials, and the 2007 sentencing in Abingdon, Va. I gave a testimony stating that they are a legal drug cartel. A 600 million dollar fine and a slap on the wrist was the outcome.

Many years have passed and still nothing is happening. The government now charges and sentences the drug dealers and the pill mill doctors to prison. Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family plead guilty pay a fine yet again and walk away with a promise not to do it again. When will the Sacklers be sentenced to jail? When will the lobbyists and those at the FDA that approved the addictive drug all the time knowing that the outcome could lead to addiction and possible death be held accountable?

What transpired was caused by an epidemic filled by greed.

I ask that all documents be released. We the families of each and every victim have the right to know. We are now the voices of the many lives gone.

With every slap on the wrist, our loved ones die over and over again.

You can catch all the little fish you want, but until you catch and cage the sharks this will never end.

I was 54 years old when my son passed, I am now 73 years old. I can only pray that before I die the Sackler family will be sentence to prison.

Leona Nuss

Randall's mom

Palm Coast, Fl.



To the Sackler family and committee members:

I am writing about my son David Petrowsky who is now 36. When he was about 14 years old he had bilateral tendon surgery on his legs. The doctor prescribed oxycodone and that was the start of a long painful journey. My son then went on to develop oxycontin addiction. Oxycontin was readily available and by 2005 at the age of 20 he went into his first rehab. After staying there for one day, he went out to steal to support his habit and when the police came, he went out a second story window of a victorian home landing on his head in the driveway. After two months in the hospital he was released. I am an RN and told the neurologist who did the follow up, that my son had addiction problems and yet he still prescribed oxycontin. That very night my son overdosed. I found him blue and barely breathing and off he went to the hospital for another week. He then lost custody of his newborn son. My son has a permanent brain injury, he cannot work. To this day he is on suboxone for withdrawal symptoms. There are those who develop addictions but children's brains are not developed enough to handle the effects of narcotics and should receive them only in cases of severe pain. Many times an anti-inflammatory will do just as well if not better. And I have 6 years of hospice nursing under my belt. I think that it is shameful that people need suboxone, methadone and narcan to get off a drug that was pushed for profit by people who dont even get their hands dirty. I am lucky my son didnt die but if I was not there, he would have. If this happened to your family, you would feel the same. My life has been ruined just as much as my sons life. Its not fair for families to suffer this way.

Wendy Petrowsky RN BSN CCM ACM

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Fwd: FED UP - Tentative PURMA PHARMA Opiod Hearing January 2021
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 9:49:17 AM

Attn: PERSONAL TESTIMONY for **Purma Pharma Tentative Hearing** for January 2021 that was suppose to be heard December 8, 2020.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, Dec 3, 2020 8:39 pm
Subject: Fwd: FED UP - Opiod Hearing Dec. 8, 2020

Written personal testimony for Purdue Pharma Hearing on December 8, 2020 as requested by FED UP E-Mail. Thank you and God Bless for righteous justice!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, Dec 3, 2020 2:18 pm
Subject: FED UP - Opiod Hearing Dec. 8, 2020

From: Jenna M. (Polus) Mohammed

[REDACTED]



*****Subject:

Personal **Scourge of the Opiod Pandemic*******

Between, 2010 to 2015, I had my three healthy children, had over fifteen (15) surgeries on my kidneys and reproductive organs, diagnosed with two auto-immune disorders, chronic Sepsis infections, and ended with a complete hysterectomy with bi-lateral ovary and cervix removal. I developed internal bleeding as a complication from surgery, resulting in a blood transfusion, emergency surgery, and a difficult, long recovery. With three children under the age of five, I was now dealing with medically induced menopause. That had an intense effect on my mental health, Bipolar Disorder, memory, and cognitive thinking. **I relied heavily on pain medication after surgery**, and thus the beginning of my downward spiral into addiction. Throughout, those years, I was a full-time student, employed full-time, and maintained our family home. In 2017, my husband abandoned me and our three children, left us financially destitute, and ended in Divorce when I stood up to him and his Father for the abuse me and our children endured. I am not sharing this with you to excuse my behavior, but to give you background to the circumstances leading up to my addiction and criminal behavior. Too often, am I reminded of my high criminal point total. But if you look further, you will see all criminal points were accumulated in 2018, with the exception of one non-drug related charge in 2016. My addiction has taken all the things that are most important to me, hurt my health, my judgment, and most important relationships. These things mean so much to me, but because they mean so much to me, I find myself operating out of fear. What if I fail? What if I am not strong enough? These fears can sometimes make me runaway and give up before even trying. I found myself thinking, I don't have what it takes and I ran away from fear of inadequacy. A paralyzing fear of failing the courts, myself, and my family. I have been suffering from a poor sense of self worth and false identity since my Divorce. I lost security of who I am. I lost my home of nine years, my friend/boyfriend passed away, and have been unable to see or talk to my children, due to ex-husband not following custody arrangement this year of 2020. Only, through seeing myself as a child of God, who is spiritually alive in Christ, can I begin living accordingly and cast away those self doubts.

MN Adult & Teen Challenge can help guide me through their faith based program. I believe they can help me not be defined by my addiction, but become redefined by it. Their

facility will help transition me back into society, which I recently learned is overwhelming. Through, their mental health department, I'll be able to establish care for Bipolar Disorder, start a treatment plan, and be monitored while experimenting with medication. I will also be able to address the trauma I have experienced. A great deal of the weight of helping me get through jail is falling on my parents shoulders. And, the absence in my childrens lives will have long term effects on their development. I have dragged my family and myself through the disaster and crisis of addiction. I want to change. I want to ask for forgiveness from my family, from the courts, from myself, and God. I want to enrich our lives, not take away anymore. I want more than anything to be able to have the courage to face my ex-husband in court and have the support of Mn Adult & Teen Challenge advocating for me and my children.

I have faith that MN Adult & Teen Challenge can give me the encouragement, support, confidence, and hope that I need to continue sobriety. I would also be able to get assistance in navigating some barriers I face, like employment, continuing education, housing, and family court.

Sincerely,

Jenna

M. (Polus) Mohammed

P.S. This was

first written July 28, 2020 to MN Adult & Teen Challenge to enter treatment.

When I am going through hardships, do I turn to God and try to cooperate with Him, so He can use them for my good and for His glory? = "**ROMANS 8:14-17**" - Ref: Holy Bible

From: [Linda Sauer](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Sackler family
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4:21:57 PM

Dear Oversight Committee

Please do not let the Sackler family walk away from their responsibilities in the opioid epidemic. We lost our nephew Matthew to an opioid addiction that may have been prevented had doctors and the Sacklers acted responsibly with the promotion of their products. He left behind a family that is still suffering from his loss.

Thank you
Linda Sauer

The opioid crisis was something that I had only seen on the news or read about on the internet. The idea that I would come in close contact with this issue seemed foreign to me. After all, my husband and I have tried everything to raise our kids the “right” way. So how could it happen to us? Little did I know that I was just being arrogant and naïve.

On June 6, 2020, I walked into Zachary’s room only to find that he had been dead for several hours. Up until that moment, I had no idea the extent of my son’s addiction. I thought that Zach was only an occasional user of Xanax and Marijuana. I had no idea that he was experimenting with other drugs or how deeply addicted he was and how oblivious I had been.

Zachary had a mostly normal upbringing. The only difference we had from other families was that we constantly moved around due to his father’s occupation. He attended Catholic Schools up until high school. He played football, basketball, baseball, tennis, soccer and rugby. He was a straight A student up until his freshman year. He was very popular in school and was well liked by his peers and teachers. He was involved in clubs and participated in academic competitions throughout his elementary and middle school years.

However, everything changed when we moved to North Carolina at the beginning of his freshman year. Prior to moving, we allowed him to choose a school that he wanted to attend for his high school years. We figured that was the least we could do since we were moving him away from his friends. We visited several public and private schools in the area before he finally settled on one. Zachary chose to attend a public school that was rated number 4 in Charlotte, number 2 in the district and one that had received a national ranking of 549. So again, we felt no need to worry about drugs or the Opioid epidemic.

At end of his freshman year, Zachary became very depressed and began experimenting with drugs that he was readily able to obtain at school. At first, it was only Marijuana and then towards the end of his sophomore year, he began taking Xanax and Roxicodone. Then towards the end of his senior year he began experimenting with cocaine in addition to the Xanax and Roxicodone. But he would keep going back to Xanax and Roxicodone as his drug of choice.

We did not find out about Zachary’s drug use until the end of his sophomore year. But even then we only thought that it was just Marijuana. We tried to get him help. We tried everything that we knew in order to help him. However, we still did not know enough and we certainly did not know where to turn or who to turn to.

We felt helpless, alone, confused and frustrated. We did not understand how two highly educated people could be at a loss as to how to deal with their son’s drug use and behavior. But no matter how hard we tried, it was very evident that we did not know how to help Zach. We tried tough love. We tried begging and pleading. We tried screaming and threatening. We tried counseling, and drug education programs. We tried researching for anything and everything on the internet that could help us and even called several hotlines. Still, nothing helped. We were at a loss and very confused.

When Zach died we had so many unanswered questions. What happened to him? How could we not have helped him? How could we have failed him? How did we not see how much trouble he was in? How could a child who had so much potential end up like this? And the biggest question of all, what was it that he took that killed him? The answers came several months later from the Medical Examiner's Office. Zachary's cause of death was cocaine and fentanyl poisoning.

We were devastated! I began combing through his phone and realized the extent of his drug use. I spoke to his "friends" that came over to the house that night. They stated that Zach went out to go look for some "Roxy's" that afternoon. However, he came home with the cocktail of drugs that would kill him instead.

I was outraged! First, I was outraged that Fentanyl even existed. For something that is so deadly, why should it still be around? How can we tolerate its existence as a society when it is causing more harm than good? How do we justify keeping it around when its positive value is outweighed by its negative effects? But mostly, I was outraged that it was even created knowing its deadly qualities.

Then I was outraged that all these other drugs were so easily accessible to kids. I was outraged that he was able to obtain Xanax and Roxicodone so easily from the kids at school. I was outraged at myself for not knowing the effects of these prescription drugs. I was outraged at the addictive qualities of these drugs. But most of all, I was outraged that my son became addicted to these drugs.

Now, I am still outraged and you should be too. Everyone should be outraged at the rate that these Opioids are creating havoc in our society and we should keep being outraged until this crisis is over. Aren't you tired of the number of people addicted to these drugs? Aren't you tired of how easily children are able to obtain these prescription drugs? Aren't you tired of the number of people dying in our society? Will you just sit there and wait until it happens to someone close to you? What will compel you to act?

Zachary was only 19 years old. My whole world shattered the day he died. Our family is now broken and will never be whole again. I will never see my son again. I will never hear him laugh or call me mom. I will never get to know what he would have become. I will never get to see him graduate from college, get married, or have children. Instead, I left with an open wound that will never heal. I cannot even describe to you the pain that I feel today. I am completely lost and utterly broken. A piece of me died with him that day.

I wanted you to know how the Opioid crisis has impacted me. This is the impact that it has had on me. Zachary was addicted to Xanax and Roxicodone and Fentanyl took his life.

This is the face of a victim of the Opioid crisis. He was my son. He was my whole world. I loved him more than anything in this world. I would have gladly taken his place in a heartbeat. He was good and kind. He was funny and he loved to laugh. He never hesitated to help anyone in need. He stood up for what was right and was loyal to his family and friends. He dreamed of working in the music industry and wanted to make a difference in the world. This was my Zachary!



Purdue Pharma's efforts to grow the market share for OxyContin and other opioids through the mass overproduction negatively impacted my family with the loss of my 25-year-old daughter, a motherless granddaughter at age two (2) and my own mental health. My mental health condition resulted from the extreme amount of stress trying to save my daughter for well beyond eight (8) years and eventually raising my granddaughter while still trying to save my daughter. Finally, forced to prepare and attend my daughter's funeral, something a mother should never have to endure. The availability of this drug led to neighbors selling this product to our children, not the "typical" drug dealer, making it convenient and less intimidating for children to purchase. Why...financial gain

The overproduction of OxyContin fueled the market for selling Oxy pills at a significant financial benefit for those prescribed a never-ending supply. Greed from the Purdue family's efforts to mass produce opioids, the doctors over prescribing, and finally, our neighbors selling to our children for a personal financial gain not knowing the consequences. OxyContin was in everyone's medicine cabinet, including mine, not realizing the dangers present.

I know this from personal experience. For example, my husband suffered an injury on several occasions, such as a broken arm, and received opioid medication. His prescription was not only enough to cover the few weeks he needed it but months thereafter. His initial prescription consisted of over forty (40) pills with three (3) refills of the same quantity. We did not refill this prescription and the leftover pills remained in our medication cabinet. This was not the only instance for my spouse. This same circumstance presented itself on several occasions. In each case, refills were plentiful. I was prescribed opioids for countless years for migraine headaches. Luckily, I did not take the medication often. Today I take a non-opioid migraine medication which works much better than the opioid. The prescription is only six (6) pills per month. The opioid was thirty (30) pills with three (3) refills. At my regular checkup I received a new prescription, again with three (3) refills not at my request. I could list numerous other circumstances within my immediate household but will spare the court those details.

Children and their parents had no idea of the dangers lurking in our homes and medicine cabinets. How would anyone, the nation's children, parents, neighbors, and those suffering from real pain, understand a prescribed medication would turn them and our children into heroin addicts. Left forever fighting the demons and the deadly consequences of this drug. Opioids change the chemical make-up of the brain resulting in severe addiction and the inability to produce the chemicals needed to feel anything but the powerful desire for opioids. Once addicted, you are no longer the same person and never will be again.

We fight an inadequate healthcare system along with the stigma and misconceptions associated with substance use disorder. I too held these misconceptions, until I was face to face with this crippling disease. My daughter Kaitlynn was an honor student, cheerleading captain, and destined for a wonderful life. She was charismatic, genuine, and compassionate. She was full of life and amazing energy.

I have heard countless stories just like my own and it amazes me the similarities in each story. Kaitlynn hated the fact she had this disease. She was not weak. The emotional pain created by the life of an addict is not easy to overcome. It becomes a vicious cycle seemingly impossible to break. My daughter

died on May 3, 2018 from an overdose of fentanyl, opioids, and a toxic supply of antidepressants. She left behind her beautiful two (2) year old daughter, Kaitlynn. Kaitlynn did not want to die. She wanted to be a mother to her little girl. She fought as hard as anyone, but eventually lost the battle in a sober living facility.

I implore you to act on the results of overproduction, mass marketing, and easy access to Opioids in every home in America. Stop the financial greed and loss of our children. Hold Purdue Pharmaceuticals and the Purdue family.

Thank you.

Debra Silvers and Kaitlynn's Mother

My name is Julie Strickler, and I am a Mom who lost her son, Corporal Nicholas Hawkins, USMC to overdose. Nick, while on active duty suffered an injury which required a series of 3 reconstructive surgeries while at Camp Lejeune. Following each surgery, he was prescribed OxyContin. He followed his medical directives and took the prescriptions as prescribed. Over a short period of time, Nick unknowingly became severely addicted.

As per his 1000+ pages of Department of Defense medical records, during active duty, there are entries of follow up Dr. appointments (after prescribing OxyContin) with a Diagnosis of:

"Acute Stress Disorder",

"Anxiety Disorder"

"Akathisia".

These medical entries were entered on 14 different dates after starting the prescription: OxyContin!

Nick's horrific story is comparable to hundreds of thousands of cases across the nation who suffered from this "man-made" epidemic. The details of Nick's opioid nightmare are incomprehensible. The human suffering that took place due to the Sacklers is unforgivable. Not only did my son suffer for years, but so did myself and the whole extended family. The entire reasoning for all the suffering and lost lives boils down to just one thing, ironically the topic of our world today is "LIES & GREED". WE as the people, need to start to stand up for what is right!

Make no mistake on the character of my son. He was a stand-out athlete, an amazing son who was respected by all including his superiors in the USMC. In his first four years of serving our country, he worked his way up the ranks to become a Corporal and was close to receiving the rank of Sergeant. (All by the age of 21) His goal was "Career Marine" from the time he was very young and the Marine Corp recognized him as a leader as soon as he stepped on those footprints in Paris Island & gave him the title of Squad Leader for his entire Platoon .

His honors & medals included:

- Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal,
- Global War on Terrorism service medal,
- National Defense service medal
- Sharpshooter rifle qualification badge
- Expert pistol qualification badge
- earned his green belt in martial arts

Nick was given an honorable and medical discharge from the Marine Corps in 2015. I spent my life savings and retirement to try to get him the help he needed. Two years before Nick died, he conducted extensive independent research regarding OxyContin and opioids. He made me promise that I would devote the rest of my life to educating the public on the brain altering and lethal consequences of OxyContin and to help those that are suffering due to the greed that caused the epidemic. I made that promise to him, which was two years before he died.

He wrote a poem to express what he learned through his short Oxy-Journey in the hopes that even after he left this earth, as his legacy, that he would #hopetosave1preciouslife.

Please see attached picture and poem.

Sincerely,



Julie Strickler, Mom of Cpl. Nick Hawkins





Corporal Nicholas D. Hawkins, USMC
02/08/1993 to 09/05/2017
Written in 2015

Honor, courage and commitment is what I used to live by
But those principles slowly faded away all for a temporary high

Because this disease alters what you stand for, it doesn't care if you are
Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps

That's why it's so hard for me to keep my mouth shut the way Veterans
are medicated

When doctors know it's going to leave their lives completely devastated

When they send a vet home with a bottle of pills
Without a warning label that says this fancy Heroin kills

See, the true drug dealers are masters of disguise
They're not standing on street corners, this might catch you by surprise.

But it's the crooked politicians, old and wise.
It's so hard to depict when they're wearing suits and ties

You can take it or leave it, and turn a blind eye
I could care less what you think, cause I'm sick of the lies

What's on my chest now I can say proudly, "Semper Fi".

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

December 3, 2020

Oversight and Reform Committee
[REDACTED]

RE: Purdue's/Sacklers Involvement in the Opioid Crisis

Dear Sirs,

I am submitting this letter as a feeble attempt to put into words how deeply the opioid crisis has impacted me. Honestly, there are no words to describe the excruciating loss I feel in the depths of my soul EVERY SINGLE DAY, since losing my beloved 20 year old son almost 2 years ago, after he suffered from opioid addiction for years. He was truly one of the sweetest, most caring souls I have ever known. He was so handsome, tall, blonde hair, blue eyes, smart, warm, charming & witty. For him, it all started with an injury as a young teenager and being prescribed opioids to treat the pain associated with that injury. He was actively seeking treatment and was desperate for recovery the last 15 months of his life. That was when he asked me to help him get treatment because he had ultimately turned to heroin when he could no longer get the pills. (I've since learned that over 70% of the people who are addicted to heroin became addicted to legally prescribed opioids, then turned to heroin when they could no longer obtain the pain pills.)

He hated that life, and he hated the person he had become. One night in those last few months he was so depressed and disappointed in himself, he was hugging me and ended up totally collapsing in my arms, out of pure desperation and hopelessness.....with all of his weight, and he stood 4-5 inches taller than me. He was completely conscious, sober, sobbing uncontrollably, crying so hard he was losing his breath. And it was all I could do to hold him up and keep from falling. Totally inconsolable, saying he was a piece of crap because he was an addict and couldn't stop. I watched him go thru withdrawals several times, becoming so sick, laying for hours on the bathroom floor, his head hung over the toilet, his whole

body shaking uncontrollably, and aching to the bone. There was nothing I could do to take that pain away from him.

Just recalling those memories brings up so much pain that I cannot stop crying as I write this letter. The pain is just too intense, it's more than I can bear. And this should never have even been allowed to happen. That's what hurts most of all. They knew their poison was addictive. They knew it only takes 5-8 days for the body to become addicted to that poison. Yet they pushed their poison anyway. I've got skin in the game...literally. My son died as a result of his opioid addiction. My heart and soul were ripped away from me. I have trouble finding the will to live and carry on every single day now. At times I have to fight the thoughts of taking my own life to be with him. The domino effect just goes on and on. This is something I will have to battle within myself, and live with for the rest of my life. Not only I, but his father, his sister, his cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends, so many people loved him so much and miss him every single day. He was so special to so many.

As his mom, I managed to protect him from our crazy world his whole life. But ultimately, I could not protect him from the doctor, the pharmaceutical company, nor the monster of opioid addiction. Had I known at the time what a monster this addiction was, I could have made better decisions and my son might still be with us. If you've never heard the gut wrenching screams and cries of a mother who finds her child's lifeless body, I hope you never do. It is a sound like no other on earth, and you will never forget it. I have PTSD from finding my son that morning, just minutes after he died. And the gut wrenching screaming and crying continues to this day. I try my best to function and press on, but sometimes it hits me out of nowhere and the realization that he's gone forever knocks the breath out of me and I end up sobbing and wailing, with noises coming from my lungs and throat that do not even sound human because they are sounds of pain coming from the depths of my soul. My son was a beautiful, kind-hearted soul. He was never mean-spirited towards anyone, and in fact, was quick to defend others that couldn't defend themselves. That is actually how he sustained the injury when he was prescribed opioids, by defending someone else. Those last 9 months he was on medically assisted treatment to gradually wean him off opioids. I found out the last few days of his life, one of his friends who had also been struggling with

opioid addiction had asked my son for his medicine and, always putting others before himself, he ended up giving his medicine to that friend. Then ultimately my son ended up using heroin again those last few days to keep from suffering opioid withdrawals.

He had dreams, aspirations, he had his whole life ahead of him. He never had the opportunity to experience “the love of his life”, or get married, or have children. I don’t think he ever even got to hold a baby. Although his sister had her first baby, what would have been his nephew, just 2 months after he died. He never made it to 21 years old. So many things he never got the opportunity to do. I still try to reject this reality because it is unfathomable and so difficult to believe he is no longer here.

That is just a very brief summary of my son’s story. I also have an uncle who was prescribed and addicted to opioids for years, who ended up dying by suicide in 2019, just 6 months after I lost my son. I also have a cousin who was prescribed and addicted to opioids who, after losing his wife & family because of his addiction, died in 2017 at the young age of 53 from colon cancer. I suspect his cancer stemmed from years of the poison taking its toll on his colon. I also have another family member who was prescribed and addicted to opioids, who is currently seeking treatment. And I have one family member who was prescribed and addicted to opioids who has successfully been in recovery for a couple of years now. So, in summary, my family has been deeply affected by opioids and the trail of destruction it has left behind. Nothing will bring my son back, or my cousin, or my uncle, or restore the lives of so many others that are ruined forever. God have mercy on the souls of Purdue Pharmaceuticals, the Sackler family, the doctors, and everyone else involved in peddling their poison....because I cannot and will not, ever be able to forgive what they have done. Thank you for reading my story, Jordan’s mom, #forever20.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Toppings



From: [Barbara Van Rooyan](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: Thank you
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 12:11:56 PM

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and esteemed members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform,

I am writing to thank you for your action in inviting Craig Landau and four members of the Sackler family to testify regarding their role in fueling the opioid epidemic.

In 2004 I suffered the loss of my son Patrick Stewart to OxyContin. For sixteen years my husband and I have fought for the truth about Purdue Pharma and the Sacklers to be revealed. When I testified in Abingdon Virginia in 2007 there was great hope that justice would be served. We prayed that criminals would be given appropriate punishment and notice would be sent to the pharmaceutical world that the horrendous actions of Purdue and the Sacklers would not be repeated nor tolerated. Despite our prayers greed and secrecy prevailed.

Now the Oversight Committee is providing an opportunity to do it right this time; to finally peel away the layers of secrecy and hold Purdue and the Sacklers accountable for their crimes.

For this I am truly grateful.

It is my greatest hope that as a result of the hearings the following transpires:

1) ALL Purdue/Sackler documents are disclosed

In my opinion these are their most valuable asset. Secrecy has aided and abetted the Sacklers and led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives. All of Purdue's documents should be turned over to a disclosure trust, overseen by a board of independent journalists and be made available for online publishing.

2) There is an examination of the process by which the DOJ settlements with Purdue and the Sacklers were formulated. In 2007 a great miscarriage of justice was carried out in Abingdon VA when a Justice Department "prosecution memo" was buried by senior officials and Purdue executives; the company and the Sacklers therefore got off with a slap on the wrist. Thus followed the continuation of the opioid crisis, deaths and ruined lives. Because the DOJ favored the suppression of corporate information and established its untrustworthiness the public deserves to know every detail of the current settlement processes.

3) The Sacklers are not allowed to walk away billionaires.

Crime should not pay; no one should be allowed to keep money they obtained by breaking the law. If the Sacklers are permitted to walk away from their OxyContin business richer than when they started it, this case will show the world that executives can break the law and keep profits. There will be no reason for rich and powerful people to follow the law.

4) Purdue is not made a "public benefit company".

There are numerous reasons why turning Purdue into a PBC is an appalling idea; among them is the obvious conflict of interest between government ownership and its

law enforcement obligation. In addition, as a taxpayer who has lost a son to OxyContin the idea of owning a stake in profits from sales of the drug is abhorrent to me. And, quite clearly, the plan allows Purdue/Sacklers to inflate the value of their proposed settlement.

5) Purdue Pharma executives and members of the Sackler family are charged under the RICO Act for criminal activities subsequent to 2007.

Documents continue to surface that reveal the extent to which Purdue and the Sacklers maintained criminal “business as usual” following their 2007 slap on the wrist. Sitting in the Abingdon Virginia courthouse in 2007 I distinctly recall Judge Jones’ pronouncement that the lack of jail time for the Purdue executives was the “most difficult” part of accepting the plea agreements. At that time the Prosecution Memo containing all necessary evidence to send the men to jail had been buried. This cannot happen again! All evidence must be revealed; charges and punishment commensurate with their unceasing criminal activity must finally be meted out.

Saving others from the lifelong grief that weighs upon my soul takes relentless effort on the part of so many – thank you for persisting in your endeavors to bring the truth to light and criminals to justice.

With Sincere Thanks,

Barbara Van Rooyan

"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 3, 2020

Hon. Rep. Maloney,

Will you please add this correspondence, as part of the official record for the upcoming Committee hearing ref: Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family.

I lost my wife, Mary Jo, to an accidental OxyContin overdose on July 27, 2000. OxyContin had been prescribed to her, for a herniated disc she suffered in an auto accident. A drug as powerful as OxyContin never should have been prescribed for such an injury. After her death, I took it upon myself to research the drug in an effort to try to understand why it was medically necessary for her to have had it. Eventually, what I discovered was the criminal and unethical way the drug was pushed by the executives and owners of Purdue Pharma, not for "patient care", but for "company profit".

Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family willfully created not only a national epidemic, but a national tragedy as well. Hundreds of thousands of people have been affected and that will continue for many years to come. Now that the truth has been uncovered, they should not be allowed to go unpunished. A recommendation should be made to the Department of Justice, that criminal charges be filed against all the major players of this company. They should absolutely be held accountable.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for addressing this most serious matter. If you have any questions, or would like to speak to me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Ed Vanicky

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

December 7, 2020

[REDACTED]

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

[REDACTED]

Re. December 8, 2020 House Committee Hearing – Purdue Pharma

The Short Story*, by Judith A. Walters, grieving mother of Robert Patrick McCann.

I lost my baby boy ten months and two days ago to an opioid overdose, he was 28 years old; his baby boy, Landon, was seven months old. My daughters, Mary (age 32) and Kelly (age 30) lost their treasured baby brother. Life is forever changed for all of us and our hearts are broken. We will celebrate our first Christmas this month without him, his empty stocking is hung with ours, his sisters and son, from our mantle. We are grateful to have Landon, who is a spitting image of his father, with us, yet it is impossible to fill the void left by his passing.

I have struggled with many emotions since Pat's death in February; the most challenging one being an overwhelming feeling of guilt. I am his mother and it was my role and responsibility to protect him. Prior to his overdose, knowing he was an addict, I saw a therapist who explained that I did not Cause his disease, I could not Cure it, nor could I Control it. I wanted to know how to help him, not to get off the hook and feel better about myself. I never returned to her office, nor did I throw in the towel.

Pat attempted to get clean, several times, trying outpatient care, therapy, Suboxone; but his anxiety and cravings were too much for him. What started with puberty driven anxiety, peer pressure and teenage experimentation turned, over ten plus years, into a controlling Satanic need; a battle he could not win. Don't get me wrong, Pat was a poster-child for the perfect young man – handsome, smart (a college grad), excellent athlete (20+years on the soccer field), charming and polite. He held professional jobs at two international banks.

Eventually, his paychecks were nothing more than a way to pay for his pills, including OxyContin – not by prescription, but on the street, where they are readily available at costs of up to \$100 per pill. The rest of the story, I now see is pretty classic, the need grows and the pills are no longer affordable; but no problem in this dark world because the supplier has a substitute, much less costly, HEROIN. In reality, it turns out it is more costly (though less profitable for the Purdue's of the world); it costs you your life.

So now I return to the question of Guilt. I admit I am guilty of not being perfect, for allowing myself to believe, during his teenage years, that what I was seeing was normal teenage behavior and acting out – learning how to be independent, having fun, including taking some

risks such as drinking and drugs. What I did not realize at the time is that so much had changed since I was a teenager in the 1970's. We had access to alcohol, pot, sometimes speeders or even LSD, but nothing that would or could reconfigure your entire brain, resulting in addiction and your own mind, the "addict brain" as they say in rehab, robbing you of the ability to use logic and tricking you into believing that you need the opioid every bit as much as you need water and food.

Thinking about writing this letter and writing in my mind over and over the past few days, has made me realize something; while I am guilty of not knowing and therefore not doing something extraordinary to stop him (such as having him arrested and detoxing involuntarily), it is the overwhelming supply of these pharmaceuticals (created intentionally and for profit) and seeming acceptance of them, that has enabled this epidemic and stolen my son from me, the brother from my girls and the father from my grandson, Landon. And what for? MONEY. GREED. It sickens me. Please do whatever it takes to stop them.

Respectfully yours,
Judith A. Walters



*There is so much more to Pat's story, please act – for him and the thousands of other young men and women who have fallen victim to this greed.

Trina Lynne Wasylenko



12/7/2020

To: Whom it may concern

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Trina Lynne Wasylenko and I am currently 49 years old. I am a single mother of a 23 year old daughter and I live in an affluent neighborhood with my parents. I was brought up in an upper class family with a father who traveled for work and a mother who stayed at home to raise my brother and myself. I had a perfect childhood (by most people's standards) and did not come from a background that would stereotypically be thought of to illicit a lifestyle of addiction. I am writing this letter to demonstrate the absolute destruction to the American population that the Pharmaceutical Industry caused by its unethical and incompetent distribution of Opioid Medications.

When I was in my early 30's I went to a pain Doctor in Buffalo New York for Cervical neck pain related to my profession as a hairdresser. (Let me add that since that time the Doctor that prescribed me Opioid medications has been arrested and is currently serving jail time.) I was prescribed large doses of Opioid medications on a regular basis and I became 100% addicted to them before I knew what hit me. When I was first prescribed the Opioid prescription I was newly divorced and owned a home, car, a successful career and lived with a boyfriend and my daughter who was in elementary school at the time. As I became addicted to my prescribed Opioids I began buying extra pills off the street to supplement the prescription that I was going through so quickly. Literally before I could realize how addicted I had become I was taking up to 25 Opioids a day (or more). Due to my out of control addiction I jeopardized the welfare of my beautiful little girl and got a DUAI conviction with her in my vehicle for driving under the influence of Opioids. I had CPS involvement and traumatized my daughter who is still healing from the experience(s) today. I ended up with another DUAI offense however this time I injured a person on a bicycle and was charged with a Felony. I lost my driver's license, I lost my home, my belongings, my car, my live in boyfriend, and I went bankrupt. I had to move into my parents' home and was placed on long term probation. My daughter did not have a Mother who could take proper care of her for years and is currently still in therapy from the traumatic experience. I was then prescribed Suboxone which I stayed on for 5 years. I became so severely depressed during that time that I gained 150 pounds and was diagnosed with type 2 Diabetes. Due to my depression I was put into various mental hospital units for my maladaptive behaviors. I was also prescribed a multitude of psychiatric medications to treat my major depressive disorder. All of the additional medications had major side effects that just worsened my physical health. After 5 years of being on Suboxone I finally felt ready to attempt to wean off from that medication. Weaning off from Suboxone was physically painful and mentally challenging. My addiction to prescribed Opioids literally destroyed my life personally, financially, professionally, legally, spiritually, and mentally. This addiction also destroyed my daughter's life in ways that will never be the same.

I would like the court to know that I am now an advocate against stigma of Opioid addiction and work in the Mental Health/Chemical Dependency Fields. I sit on a regulatory committee that makes recommendations to the Office of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse on new laws related to Chemical Dependency. I am one of the very fortunate few that found a way to recover from my addiction however I have a serious arrest record, CPTSD from chronic hospitalizations and chronic stress and I still live with my parents which are still incredibly difficult for my mental health. Big Pharmaceutical Companies have a moral and ethical obligation to protect the general population against harm from the drugs that they distribute. I am lucky to be alive and there are MANY people who cannot write a letter because they are dead. I am respectfully asking that the families and victims of this gross incompetence be compensated and apologized to although there is nothing worth the life of a loved one.

Respectfully,

Trina Lynne Wasylenko

From: [jody.medinger](#)
To: [Oversight Clerks](#)
Subject: opioid crisis impact statement-In memory of Samantha Grace Medinger 10/28/89-01/04/14
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:06:10 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have been asked to submit a statement on the impact that the opioid holocaust has had on me. It's hard to begin. How does one describe the end of the world? My daughter, Samantha was my precious only child, and she was my world. Her picture is attached in case you care. She was quirky, kind, beautiful, a very talented artist and writer, and a high honor student in high school. She was known as "the kid who wouldn't do drugs". In 2008, she had to get her wisdom teeth pulled. She was prescribed an opioid for pain by the oral surgeon. She decided she liked them. She liked them a lot. So when they ran out, she found a way to get more. It wasn't hard-opioids were (and still are) plentiful in the affluent midwestern suburb she lived in. The community was flooded with them. So, she graduated to oxycontin, because the market was really flooded with those too. Before too long, she started experiencing withdrawal symptoms, and unless you experience or witness them, there is no way to describe the torture of those. She started injecting to make the drugs last longer. Then, because heroin was cheaper, the "kid who wouldn't do drugs" became an IV heroin addict. She tried so very hard for six years. 45 days in rehab, a sober living house, intensive outpatient, meetings, but she just couldn't fight any more. Her talent, her personality, her integrity, her academic ability, her self-worth-everything got taken away by the product that was sold to the public and marketed as "safe". I spent those six years scraping up whatever money I could earn, beg or borrow, to try to keep her alive. I had saved enough to send her to college, and it was all used for to fight this demon who had come into our lives. There is no money available for an addict to get help, just lots of money to put them in jail. I spent the last bit of cash to have her cremated. My friends paid for her funeral. Other highlights of those years include jumping every time my phone rang, pounding on the doors of dope houses, throwing her in a car and driving 100 miles to her father's house so she could detox cold turkey, sitting in a surgeon's office to find out if she was going to lose her arm from an infection, well-you get the general idea. In late 2013, unbeknownst to me, her doctor, her father, and her boyfriend, she had started using again. On January 4, 2014, I woke up from a nap on a frigid afternoon to find my only child dead on the living room couch of an overdose. And it all started with wisdom teeth.

Sincerely,
Jody Wintheiser
(Sammy's mom)