

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KATHE SACKLER

Chairwoman Maloney, Ranking Member Comer, Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to today's hearing. My name is Kathe Sackler. My father, Dr. Mortimer Sackler, co-founded the company that is today known as Purdue Pharma LP (PPLP). I served on the Board of Directors of Purdue Pharma, Inc., the general partner of PPLP, until September 2018. I am appearing voluntarily here today to testify to the best of my recollection.

I want to start by speaking to the families who have lost loved ones to addiction and overdose. I know the loss of any family member or loved one is terribly painful and nothing is more tragic than the loss of a child. As a mother, my heart breaks for the parents who have lost their children. I am so terribly sorry for your pain. While every family tragedy is unique, I do know how deeply it hurts. I lost my brother, Robert, to mental illness and suicide when he was only 23 years old. I have learned from my own experience that our loved ones are not to blame for their mental illness or addiction. They deserve compassion and access to effective treatment and support, not stigma.

As the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recognizes and the approved product labels reflect, there is an inherent risk of addiction, abuse and diversion in all opioid medicines, including OxyContin. During my years on Purdue's Board, I believed that with the Board's support, the company was working diligently to reduce the inherent risk and incidence of abuse and diversion in its opioid products. The Board was informed by management on a quarterly basis that the company was in full compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements, and that any issues that Purdue's careful monitoring detected were promptly remedied.

In 2013, the Board received reports from management that after years of comprehensive analysis, the FDA determined to change the label of OxyContin to reflect that the abuse-deterrent formulation that Purdue had invested significant resources to develop had a meaningful impact in diminishing the dangerous practices of crushing, snorting and injecting OxyContin. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) praised the new formulation as a valuable innovation, and a group of state Attorneys General urged the FDA to require abuse deterrent features for all opioids produced by other manufacturers. Management also informed the Board that Purdue's Abuse and Diversion Detection Program was designed to identify questionable prescribers and halt promotional calls to them.

I am deeply troubled that Purdue's product, which was developed to relieve pain and approved by the FDA, also became associated with so much suffering. I thought Purdue was acting responsibly to reduce the incidence of abuse and overdose while still serving those in need of pain relief.

As a member of the Board of Purdue, I engaged conscientiously in my role and actively supported the recruitment of talented, experienced outside directors who further strengthened the Board throughout their years of service. My view, which I expressed at Board meetings, was that Purdue should "do well by doing good"¹ and not put profits ahead of all other considerations. I believed that, as the FDA recognized, OxyContin was safe and effective for its intended use, and I was moved by communications the company received from pain patients who

¹ PPLPC012000449535, at '9538 (notes from October 2013 Purdue Board meeting).

spoke of how much the medicine had helped them. I also believed, in part as a result of my medical training, that “the sales force (and indeed the entire organization) should be driven to be of high value to patients and physicians (and the healthcare system), and not simply to increase prescriptions for Purdue products.”² Being of high value to patients and physicians is consistent with the values I hold, my family holds, and the Board held.

Too many families throughout the United States have lost too many lives to the opioid crisis. For our part, our family hopes that the settlement under negotiation in Purdue’s bankruptcy has the potential to resolve the litigation in a way that provides real help and even saves lives by making resources available for treatment and other programs, especially now when the pandemic has made the need for these resources even more urgent. It is for that objective that we have offered the entire value of Purdue as well as an additional contribution of at least \$3 billion to be dedicated to those efforts. I also hope Congress and this Committee are able to come up with productive solutions to address the many causes of the epidemic.

Thank you.

² PPLPC012000452390, at ‘2392 (notes from October 2013 Purdue Board meeting).