



The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve King
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Hearing on Examining Ethical Responsibilities Regarding Attorney Advertising

Dear Chairmen Goodlatte and King:

On behalf of Caregiver Action Network (CAN), I am writing regarding the harmful impact that attorney advertising is having on patients and their families.

CAN is the nation's leading non-profit family caregiver organization, working to improve the quality of life for the 90 million Americans who care for loved ones with chronic conditions, disabilities, disease, or the frailties of old age. CAN serves a broad spectrum of family caregivers ranging from the parents of children with special needs, to the families and friends of wounded soldiers; from a young couple dealing with a diagnosis of MS, to adult children caring for parents with Alzheimer's disease. CAN (the National Family Caregivers Association) is a non-profit organization providing education, peer support, and resources to family caregivers across the country free of charge. Often it is the family caregiver who manages the medications for the patient.

Caregiver Action Network commends you for examining the impact attorney advertising is having on patients. These ads unfortunately instill real fear in some patients, and there is incontrovertible evidence that some have discontinued their medications without consulting their doctor. Tragically, some patients have suffered significant adverse health effects or even died as a result.

We appreciate the Committee's examination of these advertisements and would hope that the legal profession regulates itself responsibly. If, however, it does not, public policy must reflect what is in the best interest of patients. Due to the potentially catastrophic consequences of patients discontinuing their medication without medical consultation, CAN strongly supports this examination into the influence of attorney advertising on the well-being and safety of patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Schall".

John Schall
Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member,
House Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Steve Cohen, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice