

Bourdon, Kendall

Subject:

RE: [External] Proposed Workers Comp Case Rules

From: Kimberly Noble [mailto:kkn21292@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 2:47 PM

To: Allen, Charlton <charlton.allen@ic.nc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed Workers Comp Case Rules

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Dear Mr. Allen,

I'm writing you today as a concerned citizen. I have read of your proposed restrictions and rules regarding opioid use in injured workers. I understand that you come from a place of concern in regards to a crisis that has been labeled an "opioid crisis". But, I hope you will hear me out. My credentials on the matter are a decade in the scientific research field studying the opioid receptor and its effects as well as my current health. I am a double organ transplant survivor, sufferer of Wegener's disorder who is currently going blind and deaf and, though both of my wrists have collapsed and fused in the past, it is currently my knee and spine that is in the process. I live in pain and I understand the mechanisms of opioids extraordinarily well.

In spite of my myriad of health disorders, I have to fight for pain medication. I am screened as a possible addict and my life is peered into with no regard to my personal privacy to deem if I am "worthy" for pain control. As I have passed numerous screens, including the highest level offered by the DEA for handling controlled substances while a scientist, I know eventually I will be treated. But, in the meantime, I suffer. As I have this entire Christmas season. You see, I am currently being screened by Duke and am only 2 months into the process. So, the past 2 months have not been pleasant for me and that is a direct result of misguided legislation such as what is currently being proposed.

Legislation meant to end the rising number of overdose deaths has done very little to slow that mounting tide, but it has made life unbearable for people like me. Repeatable research has shown that only 0.9 percent of patients prescribed pain killers ever become addicted. The problem lies not in those seeking legitimate pain control but in the teenager helping himself to Grandma's medicine cabinet or the prior addict seeking out street pain meds such as Fentanyl. I urge you to reference the May Journal of Urology which has a very large well researched study on the matter.

I also urge to read a recent article published by Vice which has some very pertinent thoughts on the issue (tonic.vice.com/en_us/article/a3z98b/big-pharma-didnt-cause-the-opioid-crisis-most-pain-patients-dont-get-addicted). And finally, I urge you to leave medical treatment of any kind in the hands of medical professionals and not in the hands of legislators.

Thank you for your time,
Kimberly Noble

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