

Barry

I been through 6 failed lower back operations damage nerve scar tissue on nerve 5 deterioration disc upper back 3 severe multiple bone spurs sticking me in my nerves and 2 bulging disc in my neck and another bulging disc in my lower back pain is too much to handle and my pm doc wants to cut my meds back and I will not even be able to walk getting to hard now and I been thinking of ending my life I just can't take this PAIN ANYMORE.
BARRY P. NEW JERSEY

MaryPat

As a retired RN whose chronic pain is due to the nature of the work I did for 40yrs, I am livid that hardworking people are left with no treatment for pain aside from orders to "get more exercise" & told they suffer with "a chronic deconditioning & lack of activity". For the love of Pete, how blasted ridiculous is that? Are we to blame for drug addicts overdoses? I think not. Please, let's DEMAND fair treatment & agree to drug screens randomly. Anything less is barbaric & inhumane.

Tootie Welker

I have been very clear with my GP that when the remainder of my pets die, if this struggle continues to have a decent quality of life, I'd rather just kill myself. To me life without the ability to enjoy it, with no quality, is just not what I'm interested in.

Luanne

Hi,

Up until 2 years ago, I actually had a life. I could do most things, go out, whatever I wanted within reason, when I had my pain meds. Now, I'm home 24/7, rarely go out and a lot of nights just crying from the pain. My husband is also a chronic pain patient due to a failed ACDF surgery that left him with severe torticollis and his chin on his chest frozen so he can't move his neck. His spinal cord is compressed and he needs a revision surgery for total cervical. He also had his meds taken away. We depend on each other totally, as we don't have a lot of family left. I'm afraid one of us will give up because of the pain. We struggle everyday with pain, finances even just doing simple household upkeep I fear it will only get worse as time goes on. I'm a Gulf War veteran and I'm seen at VA. I just found out that the pain Dr. I see isn't even a pain management dr and the only dr that was, has left several months ago. There's just so much a person can take and all of us have to find a way to get these changes in pain med restrictions repealed. There is absolutely no reason any of us should have to suffer. An addict will ALWAYS get their drugs! It won't matter or change anything for them. They will find a way but making responsible pain patients suffer is definitely NOT the answer! It's pretty sad when you seriously think the only way out is suicide or buying heroin to survive in this country, one where we're supposed to be free, to now be imprisoned in our homes from politicians and bureacrats, who I'm pretty sure, will be able to get whatever they need.

Rochelle Odel!

My pain docs decided to stop my Dilaudid, cold turkey no less. I had been on that drug for over 20 years, with the last 16 years on a high dose...I have become basically bedridden, except to venture out for very short, forced walks. I buy all my food online, not a healthy way to buy groceries. My vehicle has been dead in my garage since December, 2016. I have never been suicidal, but if the unrelenting pain and severe muscle spasms which now completely make living impossible. Cleaning my home is a joke, nor can I afford to pay someone.

Alexis' Mom in NJ

I am a 48 yr old sufferer of RA/OA & now hypothyroid.. but most of all I am the paid caretaker of my adult special needs daughter, who requires a lot of hands on care!! I AM ALL SHE HAS! I can't even tell you the anxiety she has knowing that if my meds discontinue, and I go back to being bedridden in pain, some stranger may have to come into my home and help her in the bathroom to take care of her personal needs! 7 yrs ago I came to my PM Dr delirious with neck pain so bad that I felt like ripping my head off!! Over the yrs I've tried PT...OTC meds.. meditation... . Lyrica... Cymbalta, Gabapentin... oral steroids & injections.. RF Ablations, and now Hydrocodone coupled with a low dose of fentanyl pain patch.. over the past few yrs I was able to get back some my quality of life. However, the arthritis is relentless and continues to take over every damn joint in my body and has pretty much ruined MY personal life, but no matter WHAT, I still need to take care of my daughter... even tho it kills me just to get out of bed. Do you lawmakers have ANY heart at all?!? We are law abiding citizens, following every guideline set out by our Drs, taking our medications EXACTLY as prescribed, following every rule and some of us guarding our medications with our lives. We are taking these medications NOT BECAUSE we want ton but because our lives depend on it!!! How can you put us in the same category as addicts who are criminals who steal it from us..who have now stolen our rights..and now WE are the ones who will be paying with our souls!! My arthritis, as everyone elses, is not something that gets better over time. IT'S A KNOWN AND PROVEN FACTUAL that it gets worse over time! Don't you think that if we could get relief from a couple of Aleve we would!?! Ask ANY PM patient!! They will all tell you!! Not ONE of us would chose taking a narcotic if we could get relief from OTC medications! Do you honestly think that this is actually going to solve ANYTHING?? WELL THINK AGAIN!! Wait till you see how many MORE street drug overdoses happen!! Wait till you see suicide rates climb!! And that's ok with a bunch of yuppie lawmakers in suits & ties who have obviously never suffered from chronic pain

Deb L.

I'm 60 now and as a chronic pain sufferer from arthritis and Fibromyalgia for over 12 years, it is insane that the FDA can dictate to our physicians how & who they can prescribe what to. I've never abused any

of my prescriptions. I can't take Lyrica, Cymbalta, Savella, and the list goes on as I have horrible reactions to them and gabapentin puts my brain to sleep and I can't function on it. I've been on a low dose pain med for 10 years and it allows me to be a functioning person of society as I still hold a job. Take the pain meds away and I'm in bed and then the State would have to take care of me. I don't want that. To be honest, I believe that because of this stupid rule, there will be alot more suicides as there is only so many days one can live in relenting pain without relief before it sends you off the deep end.

Sheila

I was just informed that I would be tapered off my pain medication after 12 years. I also have never abused my medication lost it or requested more. I want to do whatever I can to help this cause although I'm not sure how helpful I will be once I no longer have my pain medication. They're starting me back on Lyrica, a drug that when I used in the past, did not help my pain nearly as much as I suffered from it and I had to quit college and could not drive much of the time. Lately I find myself thinking about death all of the time because I don't know how I will Go On . They're making a big deal about me getting off hydrocodone. I wouldn't give a rat's butt about not being able to take hydrocodone if I didn't care about suffering in pain and being able to keep my job and continue thriving in life like I have been now that I'm off all of the non opioids and I'm just taking hydrocodone. I have no side effects from it but it controls my pain enough that I have been able to get my life back. When I was on Cymbalta and Gabapentin I could not work because I couldn't remember or prioritize or finish a sentence. I also gained a ton of weight and ended up with high blood sugar, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure and then they wanted to give me medicine for those. Please join me in praying about this problem that is, or eventually will, affect all of us.

D-Mac

I am really happy to be reading this discussion as I am laying on my couch feeling such pain in my legs, my back, my feet, and every other part of my body at any given time.

I am a 65 year old army veteran who worked for many years doing hard labor as a journey iron worker and as an oil field roughneck, thinking I was doing a service for my country. Now that I can no longer work due to so many work-related health issues, the government repays me by making me live in almost constant pain?

I don't think that is fair or what I would call great health care.

Please let me know if there is a class action suit because I want to be a part of it.

Candie Komorowski

32 year old who is sometimes trapped in bed for weeks or months unable to feed myself clean my home let my poor dog out to pee. I worked my rear off with 3 jobs to go to college now i cant even work and no one cares. Now im a 32 year old go before a disability judge fighting to survive to not end up homeless when if I was given the right treatment id be working. Unfortunately while specialist will refer you to the so-called pain clinic the only one in this state that has been over booked for the last year-and-a-half and as far as I know as of last week they are still not taking any more patients. No doctor outside of pm will prescribe pain meds. Oh btw the crazy meds have only made me worse and this has been extremely taxing on my mental health not being able to get the help I need being treated like a criminal losing my career my friends the CDC has taken my life and all that remains is a shell of the lively fun loving hard working ambitious women who had dreams of going to law school and had made it over half way towards that goal before my life was taken from me.

Lea Ramage

I am a retired RN. Also an Air Force veteran. In 2010 I stepped on an ink pen & fell on concrete steps. 2013, I had breast cancer surgery. 2015, my vehicle was slammed into by a guy racing thru a grocery parking lot. I've had 2 thyroid surgeries this past year, one for cancer.. I've NEVER abused any med. I am NOT a heroin addict. My pain meds help me to walk, to exercise, to sleep, to function, & to keep my sanity. For anyone to lump me in a 'heroin addict' classification is not only the ultimate insult but it is also a lie about me! Gov't has NO right to interfere with ANY doctor/patient relationship!!

scott michaels

For 7 years i have been on high dose opioid therapy because of several spinal conditions. It was either at least 3 surgeries with little or no guarantee of any pain relief or pain medication.

This was after over a year of epidurals, physical therapy, multiple injections etc.

I have a terrible metabolism so the medication oes right thru me, hence the high dose. As of last month kaiser is reducing me 10% a month until im at 90 mg eq. I have no choice they said. The pain is already coming back and they dont care. I was bedridden, my wife had to dress me and any movement felt like a knife in my neck.

This will get worse as the medication lessens. I am 7 yrs older and the conditions got worse.

I take as directed, i am a poster patient and i Dont deserve to be compared to a heroin junkie.

Ive NEVER BEEN HIGH FROM THIS MEDICATION, IT JUST MAKE MY PAIN GO AWAY.

Steven

I've tried everything I know how to email the chairmen of the Veterans Affairs Committee's in both the Senate and the House, only go receive condescending replies saying they're "fighting for our rights" without mentioning that they are complicit in our agony. Yet this is a fight that unites all of us regardless of race, creed, or whether one is a Democrat or Republican, Gay or Straight. We are all human beings who are in tremendous pain being sought out by ruthless bureaucrats who have never felt prolonged suffering. It is Orwellian in scope, and it's outcome has IMHO been planned. Great way to save money on a 20 trillion dollar debt. We did as our Country ordered, and were assured we would be taken care of. I guess it was my fault I was wounded in Vietnam. The hope seems to fade when both candidates for POTUS

rubber stamp the policy that has a self fulfilling end. I'm just not ready to throw in the towel, and hopefully some one will come to our collective aide

Autumn Kraft

To add to my comment, I'm in NY and a lot of pain management people are turning to street drugs in desperation. How is this helping fight the opioid epidemic? It's pathetic they sweep good people under the bus. I am so frustrated with jumping through hoops to get my medications I'm trying to figure out alternative treatments, like holistic treatments to use instead. I'm hoping one day some how I won't need the medications, but right now it gives me a quality of life I otherwise couldn't have. It gives my son a parent he otherwise couldn't have. I can't say what I would do if my medications were taken away completely. I do not believe I would turn to street drugs, but it's also hard to say until a person is in a position as I've seen with all sorts of things in life. It is truly sad that this fight to stop addictions is actually pushing law abiding chronic pain suffers into buying illegal medications.

Ally

I'm all for helping people with addiction, but you rehab a chronic pain patient, well here's a pat on the back for you, because you just ruined someone's only chance at having a life.

We, who live in pain, I from Rheumatoid diseases and Sjogren's Syndrome, have a right to have our pain treated so we might have some sort of life with our families and loved ones.

I do not wish to lay around in bed and cry all day. Our meds all work together, DMARD, biologics, steroids, NSAID, and pain medication. If we take one medication away, it disrupts the effectiveness of the whole balance that we all fight desperately to find.

J. Clay Barcus

. The NEW CDC OPIOID DISPENSING GUIDELINES are tountamount to a death sentence to those of us suffering from debilitating chronic pain diseases and disabilities and suffer adverse side effects from the other drug additives in other medications that are toxic to our organs over time. This is the reason many of us were placed on opioids in the first place. Now we are told it is safe to go back on these medicines that were toxic to us!? This non-regulatory body has created an environment that has made what was quality industry standard for years in pain management to now be non-standard industry practice overnight in their efforts to curb an ill fated war on opioid abuse. It is not right and should be reversed or at the very least relaxed to accommodate those who are being made to suffer or go back on medications that are toxic to our other organs because of the additives. This is not the way to stop opioid abuse at the expense of a silent group of pain sufferers

Jo

I have had reflex sympathetic dystrophy since I was 13 I am now 39. My left leg was amputated due to complications from the RSD. Unfortunately it spread to my right leg about ten yrs ago and again I'm have major complications. I was in fentanyl pops along w Oxy contin and both were helping me make it through the day . The insurance company or drug company changed the label on the fentanyl to cancer patients only and took out chronic pain sufferers. So now my insurance co will no longer cover it bc I do not have cancer. I was on this drug for years , I didn't abuse I didn't sell it I used it bc I'm in extreme pain and it helped, but now that was taken away. My legs keep getting worse I have terrible phantom pain in addition to the RSD pain in both legs and my right arm spread to. I think people that have no clue as to what we are feeling or going through are now controlling how we feel or how they think we should feel. Something needs to be done before more sick people look for drugs elsewhere and end up overdosing. We are not drug addicts, those pain meds help us get through the day. It's not my choice to take these meds I have to if I want to live some sort of life like most people who are in pain.

Angelia

We who have multiple diseases have to struggle through this all the time. Saying that we need to be taken off of the pain medication that helps us to live as normal as possible is not only sad but uncalled for. No my pain medication does not stop my pain but it makes it easier to walk and so on. I can't even begin to imagine what will happen when and if they take me off of it. It's bad enough to know that my conditions are terminal and I live with that thought in the back of my mind daily. But to take the medication that helps me will surely cripple me in the long run.

Liz

. I'm 36 years old and have relied on prescription opioids for the past 4 years just to be able to get out of bed, take care of my kids and help my Husband as much as I can with our home. I can no longer work due to my chronic pain condition a condition that will only get worse. I worked for as long as I could until my pain condition made it too unbearable to continue. I use my meds responsibly and so that I can the best result when taking them. Taking away medication from millions of people who rely on these meds to function and have some quality of life is cruel and sickening. There's days where I sit home and cry because my pain is so bad, I cry because I can't function like I should, I cry because I can't be the Mother and Wife I want to be. The government thinks punishing responsible people who legitimately need pain medication is going to stop the heroin, and overdose problem, well it's not. They are creating a bigger problem and the rate of suicides will climb as well.

Mary J

I am continually harassed at the VA due to my chronic pain and the need for relief! Have to jump through hoops just to get needed meds and they will only prescribe enough to take the edge off, I haven't been pain free for years! But will subscribe sleep meds that make me groggy for days. If the VA takes my pain meds away, I don't know what I might have to do.

Randy C

Hang in there, I too am a recent victim. Sep I was taking 5 hydros a day and 2, 20mg oxy er..Oct they cut to 4 a day. 3 a day due to a mixup when changing PM Dr's after 2 weeks and say they are cutting another pill in my next appoint. Not only am I going thru withdrawals I am in constant pain and hostage to the house or bed. Prior to this I was on much higher doses and doing fairly well and went thru a yr of rapids cuts and was diagnosed with narcotic bowel syndrome which is so miserable it is sucking the life out of me. PM Dr's say its DEA guidelines, isn't a guideline just that and negotiable? It is not us chronic pain sufferers that are OD'ing. yet we are the ones that suffer for them. They will still get their drugs, misuse them, mix them up and still OD.. Is there anybody in Congress speaking for us? Hurtin for Certain Take care all.

Joann Rivera

I have chronic back pain due to a job related injury. I have done everything possible to fix the damage including spinal surgery. There is nothing more doctors can do other than manage my pain with pain medication. I don't like taking narcotics but it makes my pain just a bit tolerable. If I have to do without pain management and I can't function I don't know what will happen. To all those who have never suffered from chronic pain you are very lucky. Let's see how well you will do the day you injure yourself permanently.

Cynthia

I am just waiting to die. I survived two kinds of cancer for what? Suicide is not that easy. I have already tried it twice.

Rick

I feel you this is bullshit ! Addicts ruining it for the people that actually need it to live. I'm on the verge of suicide myself