De11ial of pai11 111edicatio11s will lead to cl1ro11ic cardiovasc11lar stress, l1)rp e r gl ) rc e111ia wl1icl1 botl1 predisposes to a11d worse11s diabetes, s1Jla11clu1ic v aso c o11str ic ti o11 leadi11g to i111paired cligestive ft111ctio11 a11cl pote11tially to catastropl1ic co11seq11e11ce. U1u·el ie v e d }Jai11 ca11 be ac c111·tae l )' tl1011gl1t of as tl1e ' '1111vie rsal co1n1Jlica to r '' wl1icl1 worse11s all coexisti11g 111edical or ps) rcl1i at r i c proble111s tlu·o11gl1 tl1e stress 111ecl1a11is111s a11d b y i11cl11ci11g cogi1itive a11d b el1a v i o r al cl1a11ges i11 tl1e s11ffe1·er wl1icl1 ca11 i11terfere witl1 obtai11i11g 11eeded 111edical care. Tl1e 1·isk of death b)' s11icide is 11101·e tl1a11

do11bled i11 clu·o11ic pai11 }Jatie11t,s

11atio11al r a te s .\*

relative to

\* Alex DeLuca, M.D., FASAM, MPH; Written testimony submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on....

Crime and Drugs regarding the *"Gen R.,-r,: Abuse of\_Prescrip\_tionand OTC Drugs"* hearing; 2008-03-08.