Letter to Federal Docket concerning Shirley Pain

March 4, 2018

Dr. W. Edgar Swillen ThD

3504 Highway 153 #303

Greenville, SC 29611

To whom can be of help to my wife,

For 25 years my wife has suffered with various health issues, including CRPS and damage from multiple spinal cord stimulations. In addition she has had a multitude of maladies with the worse of it involving surgeries that have placed her in chronic and debilitating pain. This pain has taken any semblance of a normal life, marriage, or relationship away from us. She has tapered the pain medication she takes, but she is at a point where she can go no lower and be able to function in a limited way. The current thinking is to not exceed 90 pnm, she is above that level and experience has shown her Doctors that her body does not respond to opioids like most people and when procedures are needed they need to be very concerned that she is fully sedated to avoid her actually being awake and aware of what is going on. We have learned this lesson the hard way and these experiences have affected her with PTSD.

Occasionally I can get her out for a few hours, just so she can get out of the house. Her quality of life limits her time with our grandchildren, she has very limited ability to shop and doctor visits are a constant problem for her.

The CDC has put forth “Guidelines” for Doctors that will ruin what little quality of life my wife now has. Our journey down this path did not begin with a “pill pushing Doctor” nor with a “ patient” who would eagerly move toward whatever it was suggested she do or take, quite the contrary. My wife’s Doctors are part of what is arguably one of the world’s most renowned medical organizations. They have treated her and we have worked with them over the last 26 years to do all they and we felt necessary to manage her health care needs.

One must understand that with our experience and exposure to as good as a level of care as we have, we do see care from the eyes of one who would be considered more than a “ casual consumer “ of medical care, and as I have stated before we have been very active in her care decisions.

Please understand that over this illness we have spared no expense for her care whether it be time, comfort, convenience, or financial commitment. We are to a point to where her being comfortable and having some type of quality of life is the most loving and respectful thing we can do.

I can assure you the “ Guidelines“ and what it will do to her will devastate her quality of life. Her Doctors are aware of our concerns and are very aware of past treatment protocols that would exclude her from any improvement of her condition going forward.

I implore each of you to show mercy in this decision and consider that many people are actually and really in a physically painful life that can only a be treated as our current understanding of the science of medicine will allow. We all should pray that this cup be passed from us, but until that time we are grateful for the mercy of our current understanding of medical science, and the skilled hands that practice that science.

Thank you,

Dr. W. Edgar Swillen, ThD