



**Dr. Vivek Murthy
Surgeon General
The United States of America**

Dear Dr. Murthy

As you know, Prescription Drug Abuse is the #1 Public Crisis facing America for the last several years, causing more deaths than traffic accidents and guns. Over the last 15 years, more than 500,000 Americans, including the young, have died from drug overdoses. The emotional suffering is immense, and the financial burden on the society is enormous as the cost of prescription drugs and the treatment of abuse being paid for by health insurance companies that is passed on to tax payers and society as a whole has amounted to trillions of dollars over the last 15 years.

It is surprising that in spite of the magnitude of this problem, the Prescription Drug Epidemic or Drug Addiction has not been listed in the Surgeon General's "Call to Action" which included issues such as deep vein thrombosis, breast feeding, oral health, skin cancer, walk for fitness, among others. Each of the items listed in the Surgeon General's Call to Action is important in its own right but given the magnitude of the prescription drug abuse epidemic, we urge you to consider including the "Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic" in the next "Call to Action" to give this topic the attention it deserves.

We feel that your recognition of the importance of this health issue and its inclusion in the "Call to Action" will further increase awareness and much needed and long overdue discussion on this critical topic.

Best Regards.

Members of the Board of Directors, American Pain Association
www.painassociation.org



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