

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2013

Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

We write in strong support of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announcement to apply a "removed for safety or efficacy" determination to the crushable form of OxyContin. This decision by FDA will help mitigate the harmful effects of the nation's prescription drug abuse crisis, including the suffering it causes in families across our country.

It is our hope that the agency will build upon this important decision as it considers related matters before the agency in the near future. Specifically, we urge the agency to use the OxyContin decision as the framework for upcoming decisions related to abuse deterrent formulations and opioids. When an innovator version of an opioid prescription drug has characteristics to deter abuse, it is our belief that the generic drug should hold similar qualities in order to protect the public health.

We thank you and your agency for your work in this area and look forward to working together on this important matter. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives



Tom Coburn
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Government Affairs
U.S. Senate