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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
http://feinstein.senate.gov

July 11, 2007

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner
Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

I am writing regarding Citizens Petition #2005P-0076: OxyContin and Paladone Removal from Market and Label Changes Limiting Indications to Severe Chronic Pain.

In 2005, Barbara Van Rooyan, a constituent of mine, filed Citizens Petition #2005P-0076 to remove OxyContin from the market until chemically reformulated to minimize abuse potential, and to limit the pain indications of the medication from "moderate-to-severe" to "severe-only." On May 10, 2007, Purdue Pharma, the company that manufactures OxyContin, as well as three of Purdue Frederick's top executives, pleaded guilty to criminal charges of misbranding the product. This criminal misbranding OxyContin increased profits for Purdue Frederick while causing addiction problems of epidemic-proportions across the United States.

In light of the recent developments surrounding OxyContin, I am requesting that the FDA take action on Petition #2005P-0076. While OxyContin will now have stronger warning labels due to Purdue's guilty plea, OxyContin's highly addictive nature and availability continues to be a severe problem for the country. Hundreds of deaths have been attributed to the misuse of OxyContin in the United States, especially in rural areas.

I urge you to give Petition #2005P-0076 your immediate consideration. I look forward to being updated on your progress. If you have any questions, your staff should contact Kristin Wikelius in my Washington, DC office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:kw:ez