



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D. C. 20503

February 7, 2008

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and experiences regarding prescription drug abuse. Director Walters has asked me to take this opportunity to respond to your letter. I am truly sorry to hear about the loss of your son last Christmas and the horrible impact that prescription drug abuse has had on you.

As you are aware, prescription drug abuse has increased significantly over the last several years. Contributing to this challenge, rogue online pharmacies provide controlled substances with few of the controls built into the system of brick and mortar distribution.

The Administration seeks to ensure easy access to medications for patients with legitimate need and valid prescriptions, while limiting illegal diversion. Some of the efforts made to achieve that goal include support for criminalizing the use of the Internet to advertise the illegal sale of controlled substances and support of increased penalties for the unlawful importation of schedule III-V controlled substances to correspond with schedules I-II penalties.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy continues to examine all issues related to prescription drug abuse in this country (including e-prescribing and illegal acquisition of prescription drugs via the Internet) and works daily with federal, state, and local partners to achieve a common goal of defeating this growing threat. The Drug Enforcement Administration is currently in the process of revisiting the issue of e-prescribing and Congress has held hearings on this very important issue as well.

Thank you for your concern, your activism, and your efforts in advocating for attention to this serious issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl C. Nolan".

Cheryl C. Nolan
Acting Deputy Director
State, Local, and Tribal Affairs