

2015 Fed Up! Coalition Platform



- According to the CDC, the opioid (narcotic painkillers and heroin) crisis is the worst drug addiction epidemic in our nation's history.
- Overprescribing of opioids has led to skyrocketing rates of opioid addiction and overdose deaths.
- Many opioid-addicted individuals are switching from painkillers to heroin.
- The epidemic is having a catastrophic impact on families and communities and is placing a tremendous strain on our health care system, workforce, legal system, and local and state governments.
- To date, the response from the federal government has been slow and tragically ineffective.
- By allowing pharmaceutical companies to promote opioid use for common problems, the FDA has failed in its mission to protect public health.

Together, we must find new ways to:

1. Prevent our children, friends, and loved ones from becoming addicted to opioids;
2. Ensure that people suffering from opioid use disorders have access to effective and affordable treatment;
3. Reduce opioid overdose deaths.

To these ends, we – the Fed Up! Coalition – call on our federal government to take the following actions:

- (1) Take all measures necessary to ensure that opioids and other controlled substances are prescribed cautiously.
- (2) Prohibit pharmaceutical companies from advertising controlled substances to prescribers and consumers.
- (3) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration should enforce the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by prohibiting marketing of drugs for conditions where risks are likely to outweigh benefits.
- (4) Immediately reduce barriers to buprenorphine treatment.
- (5) Allocate more funding for evidence-based treatment and prevention programs, especially for communities and populations hit hardest by the epidemic, including our military service personnel and veterans.
- (6) Ensure that public and private health insurance carriers and the Veterans Health Administration provide adequate coverage for evidence-based addiction treatment.
- (7) Improve access to naloxone use and improve legal protection for individuals who administer it and/or call 911.
- (8) Incentivize states to make use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) mandatory.

These commonsense interventions could save countless lives and help bring this epidemic under control.