



## FED UP! Coalition to End the Opioid Epidemic

- We are in the midst of a severe epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths – acknowledged by the federal government as the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history.
- Overprescribing of opioids has harmed millions of pain patients and led to sharp increases in addiction, heroin use, injection-related diseases, infants born opioid-dependent, and overdose deaths.
- The epidemic is having a catastrophic impact on families and communities and is placing a tremendous strain on our health care system, workforce, and legal system.
- To date, the response from the federal government has been slow and tragically ineffective.

**Together, we must find new ways to prevent opioid addiction, to ensure access to effective opioid addiction treatment and to reduce opioid overdose deaths.**

## **PLATFORM**

**To these ends, we – the FED UP! Coalition to End the Opioid Epidemic – call on our federal government to take the following actions:**

1. Take all measures necessary to ensure that opioids and other controlled drugs are prescribed more cautiously.
2. FDA must:
  - Prohibit marketing of opioids for conditions where risks outweigh benefits.
  - Consult its advisory committees before approving any new opioids.
  - Add an upper dose and a suggested duration of use on opioid labels.
  - Designate naloxone an over-the-counter drug.
  - Ensure that abuse-deterrent opioid formulations are NOT marketed as less addictive.
3. DEA must mandate prescriber education, **free of pharmaceutical industry bias**, for all DEA registrants who intend to prescribe more than a 3-day supply of opioids.
4. HHS, DEA and Congress must eliminate barriers to buprenorphine treatment.
5. Congress must increase funding for evidence-based addiction treatment.
6. Congress must incentivize states to mandate prescriber use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

**These commonsense interventions could save countless lives  
and help bring an end to this epidemic.**