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Josh Kresser



**Coalition for
Community Services (NY)**



RALLY FOR A FEDERAL RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC
*Opioids are narcotic painkillers & heroin

**A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE,
COORDINATED
AND COMPREHENSIVE
FEDERAL ACTION
TO END THE EPIDEMIC
OF OPIOID ADDICTION
AND OVERDOSE DEATHS**

VIDEO RELEASE:

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The 2013 Fed Up! Coalition Platform

- We are in the midst of the worst drug epidemic in United States history.
- Addiction and overdose deaths due to narcotic painkillers and heroin (the class of drugs known as opioids) are one of the nation's most urgent public health problems.
- The epidemic has had a catastrophic impact on families and communities, and it has placed tremendous strain on our health care system, businesses, and local and state governments.
- To date, the response from some federal agencies has been slow and tragically ineffective.
- Together, we must find new ways:
 1. To prevent our children, friends, and loved ones from becoming addicted to opioids;
 2. To ensure that people suffering from opioid addiction have access to effective treatment;
 3. To reduce the risk of opioid overdose deaths.
- To these ends, we – the Fed Up! Coalition – call on our federal government to take the following actions:
 1. Ensure that opioids and other controlled medications are prescribed more cautiously.
 2. Prohibit pharmaceutical companies from advertising long-term opioid use for common, moderately painful conditions.
 3. Allocate more funding and resources for addiction treatment and prevention programs, especially in communities hit hardest by the epidemic.
 4. Ensure that Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance companies adequately reimburse evidence-based addiction treatment, including long-term treatment programs.
 5. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration should follow through on the recommendation of its Advisory Committee to reclassify hydrocodone-combination products as Schedule II drugs.
 6. Make Naloxone, an antidote for opioid overdose, more widely available to first-responders, family members, addiction treatment providers and peers of people at risk of an overdose.
 7. Support the more effective and widespread use of Electronic Prescribing and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), databases that can be used to identify individuals in need of addiction treatment as well as risky prescribers.
- These commonsense interventions could save countless lives and bring this epidemic under control.



Opening Remarks:

Judy Rummler – Chair, FED UP! Rally Steering Committee
President, Steve Rummler Hope Foundation

Remembering our Lost Loved Ones:

Brittany Horigan – Director of Administration, New Roads Treatment Center

Speakers:

Andrew Kolodny, MD – Chief Medical Officer, Phoenix House
President, Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing

U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers of Kentucky

Avi Israel – President, Save the Michaels of the World

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer of New York

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia

U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall of West Virginia

Sherrie Rubin – Founder and Director, The Hope2gether Foundation

Daniel A. Busch, MD – Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Music:

Amazing Grace – performed by **Amy LeFort**

Speakers:

U.S. Congressman Brian Higgins of New York

Harris Silver, MD, MPH – Consultant, Health Care and Drug Policy;
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and
Community Medicine, University of New Mexico

Charles Reznikoff, MD – Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine,
Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis
Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School

Joanne Peterson – Founder and Executive Director, Learn 2 Cope

U.S. Congressman Michael Grimm of New York

Steve Gelfand, MD – Secretary, Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing

Lexi Reed Holtum – Vice President, Steve Rummler Hope Foundation

Alex Cahana, MD, DAAPM, FIPP – Professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
Chief, Division of Pain Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle

Closing Remarks:

Pete Jackson – President, Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids, Inc.