



FED UP! Coalition to End the Opioid Epidemic
2016 Platform

- 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.

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 should take the following actions:
 - Prohibit marketing of opioids for conditions where risks outweigh benefits.
 - Consult its advisory committee 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 should mandate prescriber education, free of industry bias, for all registrants who intend to prescribe more than a 3-day supply of opioids.
4. HHS should immediately reduce barriers to buprenorphine treatment.
5. Increase funding for evidence-based addiction treatment, especially in communities hit hardest by the epidemic.
6. CDC and SAMHSA should improve public health surveillance of opioid addiction and overdose deaths.
7. 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.**