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California State Senate

SENATOR
TED W. LIEU

TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER
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VETERANS AFFAIRS



August 12, 2013

John H. Stewart
President and Chief Executive Officer
Purdue Pharma L.P.
One Stamford Forum
201 Tresser Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06901-3431

Via mail and fax (203) 588-8850

Dear Mr. Stewart:

A recent investigation by the *Los Angeles Times* reveals that Purdue Pharma L.P. has compiled a database of hundreds of doctors who are suspected of recklessly prescribing OxyContin. The article indicates that Purdue Pharma has done little to alert law enforcement or medical authorities to risky doctors that the company believes may be endangering patients' lives. I am writing to respectfully request that Purdue Pharma provide immediately to the California Medical Board the information in its database related to California doctors suspected of recklessly prescribing OxyContin.


I also request that Purdue Pharma provide its current policy for determining (1) when a doctor becomes so risky that the company stops providing commissions to the doctor for prescribing OxyContin, and (2) when a doctor becomes so risky that Purdue Pharma informs authorities about the doctor.

The Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development has held hearings on prescription overdose deaths from narcotics such as OxyContin. There is ongoing legislation in California intended to reduce the number of patients from being highly addicted to narcotics such as OxyContin and to reduce the unacceptably high number of overdose deaths from such narcotics.

If Purdue Pharma is going to sell a highly potent, highly addictive narcotic in California, then the company has a duty to inform authorities in California of those doctors the company believes may be irresponsibly prescribing OxyContin. This duty may or may not be a legal one, but at the very least the company has an ethical duty to let authorities know about dangerous doctors.

Both Purdue Pharma and Californian policymakers have a shared interest in ensuring powerful narcotics such as OxyContin are not being carelessly or recklessly prescribed. Giving authorities in California the information the company has in its database of risky doctors is a crucial step to achieving our shared goal of reducing overdose deaths from OxyContin.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted W. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ted W. Lieu
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development

cc:
California Medical Board