

TESTIMONY – GASTROINTESTINAL MOTILITY CHRONIC THERAPEUTIC CLASS REVIEW

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee

Speaker:

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Patient Advocate

Global Healthy Living Foundation

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Disclosure:

The Global Healthy Living Foundation is a non-profit organization advocating for greater access to healthcare for all patients. It has paid for my travel here today. The foundation accepts funding from government, non-government organizations, other foundations and industry.

Good afternoon. Chairman Hauser and Vice-Chairwoman Burkett, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Mickey Goodwin. I am a 73 year-old widow, and I've lived in Lubbock for the past 20 years. I was born and raised in Austin. I'm here today representing myself, CreakyJoints, an arthritis support organization which is part of the Global Healthy Living Foundation, and other people in Texas who are, or will be taking drugs for opioid-induced constipation.

I am here today to express my support for this committee's actions that will make a wider variety of drugs available for people with opioid-induced constipation.

I have taken opioids since I was diagnosed with Scleroderma in 1995, and I have suffered with constipation as most others who take opioids have. Scleroderma does not discriminate. As you all know, it is a connective tissue disease, and in my case it has attacked my organs, including my kidneys, bladder, heart and lungs. As a result of the disease and opioids taken to relieve the pain, I have hardened bowels, too. Although I take Polyethylene glycol, I am looking for more effective drugs because I still suffer from extreme bloating, stomach pain, and blood in my stool.

I know there is a specific drug you are reviewing today. I am not familiar with it, but I know that if there is an alternative to what I'm taking now, I, and many others want to talk with our doctors to see if it might be helpful. You can make that possible for a large group of people in Texas. Anyone who lives with a debilitating condition such as opioid-induced constipation understands how awful it is, and, as healthcare professionals, you understand, too.

GHLF and I are speaking for people across Texas with this condition – whether they are on Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, or a combination of these. We urge the members of this Committee to allow patients, and in this case especially underserved patients with opioid-induced constipation, to have access to drugs that will improve their quality of life.

At the same time, we commend this committee for considering this issue. You are the compassionate ones who are selected to create a healthier Texas and we know you take your responsibilities seriously.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my remarks and, as a patient of opioid-induced constipation for the past 20 years, I would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require. Thank you for your time and attention.