Author Full Name: Sharon Souza Received Date: 01/14/2025 06:33 PM

## **Comments Received:**

I live with chronic pain, some days I can't get out of bed no matter how much I want to. When given opioids for other ailments (after surgical procedures) I find that my chronic pain is much less severe for the time I am on the pain medication and I can function at least 40% better. Physical Therapy doesn't work very well for me as I have degenerative diseases, veinous insufficiency, slipped vertebrae in my neck, loss of lordosis in my neck, and excessive lordosis in my lower back. Physical therapy has increased my pain and immobility all 3 times I was referred for it. Like many others who live with extreme chronic pain, I don't want "drugs", I want to be treated humanely and I want to not have to suffer while I'm working or taking care of my adult responsibilities. I also want doctors to stop telling me it's all in my head and trying to push ineffective treatments on me, such as Gabapentin and antidepressants.