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Every time I have had access to opioid medications for pain, I've done incredibly well at work and school. Without it, I have been treated like a liability and it has harmed my economic life. Much of my family has decided to abandon me over my lack of economic gain with chronic pain. The opioid medicine makes a great difference in my success.

If I could have had access to it earlier in life, I might have been spared my NSAID induced kidney disease and other issues that followed with the treatment of it. My medical costs are so high ... and knowing they could have been avoided by using the "addictive" medicine seems so stupid. I have never been addicted to an opioid. It has only helped me succeed in American society.

Why do I deserve this?

I could have had a healthier life.

I could have gotten married.

I could have had children.

I am lucky that I found good people now, like my loving boyfriend and his family... but that was not a given. I wish I could be more successful for them. They deserve it.

They don't deserve someone who is always struggling to "succeed again" because effective medicine is seen as the worst possible option.