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Comments Received:

Please, we chronic pain patients need help! And now, not later. Please president Trump please put a stop to our pain and allow doctors to do their job and not getting in trouble for doing so by prescribing opioid pain medications. I'm a registered nurse who had to guit working as a nurse back in 2015 because of psoriatic arthritis and neck, mid back and lower back pain. I was seeing a pain doctor who prescribed opioid pain medications and I could work for a few years until I couldn't no more because of these laws such as the MME being 90 mg of morphine. The doctor I was seeing was a neurologist and a trained certified pain doctor who treated me with the right medications and dosage. Until Walgreens got sued and they tried to report him as not being a pain doctor being placed next to his name in his prescriptions which was a lie. Walgreens notified DEA and for a period of 3 years he could not prescribe any opioids, which then I placed in a pain management company who didn't taper me at first, and lowered my dosages. I was in a lot of pain. I went for an office visit with this doctor 3 1/2 years later for another reason and found out what happened with him as a pain doctor. He was made to take classes on how to prescribe opioids at only 90 MME's, had to get a lawyer involved for court which was expensive, put on probation for two years where now he has someone come in I'm assuming from DEA or a doctor to make sure he's prescribing opioids lawfully, if that is what you want to call it, and one of the medications he prescribed me before all this happened, he cannot prescribe anymore. I would have been very grateful to come back as a patient for pain control, but he can't even prescribe one of my medications. So now I see him as a neurologist for my essential tremors he diagnosed me a year ago. This is undoubtedly a horrible outcome for him, but also for me and other chronic pain patients. When I was seeing him and being prescribed these opioids at the time, I was able to have a functional life. Now, I'm stuck sitting in bed or on the couch, not being able to function in daily activities before. I never had to worry about going to my appointments with him. He would urine test us every month to see if we were taking recreational drugs or not taking my prescriptions. Now I'm full of anxiety everytime I go to this new pain management, as they have lowered my dosages. The nurse practitioner asked me to see a heart specialist as my heart rate was a little high as always. So I went to a cardiologist and they performed a stress test, EKG, lab work and every thing came back normal. See, she decreased one of the opioids, and after finding out my heart was normal, she would not put me back to the original dosage. This is the medication that my first pain doctor put me on, and he can't prescribe it to me. Chronic pain patients are being put together with drug addicts who are the ones causing the opioid crisis and we shouldn't be. Addicts are getting their high from the streets, CPP are not. CPP have a low percentage in opioid deaths than drug addicts. Why? Because we aren't addicted! We are physically dependent because we've been on the opioids for a long time and we depend on these drugs to function daily, not to get "high". So please, please change these laws and put it back to letting the doctors to do their job in caring for CPP's. We are suffering now, suicide or out on the streets buying fentanyl to treat pain. Help us, please.