



Resolution Regarding Public School Teachers' Pension & Retirement Fund of Chicago supporting lawsuits to hold pharmaceutical manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, & PBMs accountable for their role in creating the opioid crisis.

WHEREAS, the abuse of and addiction to opioids such as prescription pain relievers, heroin, and morphine is a serious global problem that affects the health, social, and economic welfare of all societies, and between 26 and 36 million people abuse opioids worldwideⁱ

WHEREAS, the crisis in the United States continues to escalate with opioids killing more than 42,000 people in the United States in 2016, more than any year on record; andⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, the roots of the epidemic originated in the late 1990s, when pharmaceutical companies driven by an economic interest in expanding markets and increasing profits reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to opioid pain relievers and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at greater rates; andⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health recognizes the aggressive marketing of these drugs as a major cause and reason for a drastic increase in the number of prescriptions written and dispensed, resulting in widespread misuse, before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive; and^{iv}

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services, recognizing the consequences of the opioid crisis affecting our Nation, declared a Public Health Emergency nationwide; and^v

WHEREAS, the crisis continues across the country and in our own State of Illinois where overdoses increased 50% between July 2016 and September 2017, killing 1,889 Illinois residents in 2016, and threatening to claim the lives of more than 2,700 Illinois residents by 2020 unless action is taken by all who are touched by the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the epidemic knows no boundaries or distinctions, impacting families across all ages, races, and walks of life; and

WHEREAS, young adults are disproportionately impacted by addiction to prescription drugs, with more than 1,700 young adults dying from prescription drug overdoses in 2014; and

WHEREAS, educators, administrators, and school support personnel face this epidemic every day, providing front-line intervention in schools and bearing witness firsthand to the devastation this epidemic has on children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, in Illinois, educators, administrators, and school support personnel have been recognized as a critical element in the battle against addiction and have been called upon to fight this epidemic in schools and communities;^{vi}

THEREFORE, the Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago hereby resolves, as follows:

1. Its support of lawsuits brought by Health & Welfare funds and other plaintiffs against the pharmaceutical manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and pharmacy benefit managers who have helped to create and to perpetuate this crisis.
2. To continue to be conscious of these issues and to continue to protect CTPF's members in administering and contracting for the healthcare program that CTPF statutorily provides to its retirees.

ADOPTED

May 17, 2018

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ⁱ UNODC, World Drug Report 2012. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2012.html>

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Opioid Overdose deaths, <https://www.cdc.gov/druqoverdose/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ US Department of Health and Health and Human Services, What is the U.S. Opioid Epidemic? <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/>

^{iv} Testimony to congress, 2016, Nora D. Volkow, America's Addiction to Opioids: Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse, Nat'l Inst. On Drug Abuse, (May 14, 2014) https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/testimony-to-congress/2016/americas-addiction-to-opioids-heroin-prescription-drug-abuse#_ftn3

^v Eric D. Hargan Acting Secretary Department of Health and Human Services, October 26, 2017, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opioid%20PHE%20Declaration-no-sig.pdf>

^{vi} State of Illinois Opioid Action Plan a Statewide Strategic Action Plan Addressing Illinois Opioid Epidemic. <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Illinois-Opioid-Action-Plan-Sept-6-2017-FINAL.pdf>

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