



2015 Fed Up! Coalition Platform

- We are in the midst of a severe epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths—acknowledged by the federal government as the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history.
- Overprescribing of opioids has harmed millions of pain patients and led to sharp increases in addiction, heroin use, injection-related diseases and infants born opioid-dependent.
- The epidemic is having a catastrophic impact on families and communities and is placing a tremendous strain on our health care system, workforce, and legal system.
- To date, the response from the federal government has been slow and tragically ineffective.

Together, we must find new ways to prevent opioid addiction, to ensure access to effective opioid addiction treatment and to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

To these ends, we – the Fed Up! Coalition – call on our federal government to take the following actions:

1. Take all measures necessary to ensure that opioids and other scheduled drugs are prescribed more cautiously.
2. FDA should prohibit marketing of opioids for conditions where risks outweigh benefits (as required by the FD&C Act) and should cease the practice of approving new controlled drugs without an advisory committee review and recommendation.
3. Immediately reduce barriers to buprenorphine treatment.
4. Allocate significantly more funding for addiction treatment, especially in communities hit hardest by the epidemic.
5. Ensure that public and private health insurance carriers and the Veterans Health Administration provide adequate coverage for evidence-based addiction treatment.
6. Improve access to naloxone use and improve legal protection for individuals who administer it and/or call 911.
7. Incentivize states to make prescriber use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) mandatory.

These commonsense interventions could save countless lives and help bring this epidemic under control.