

My name is Barbara Wood and I am here today because of my son, Kevin Wood, a husband and father of three who is also present and speaking at this public hearing.

Kevin was prescribed narcotics from 2001 until 2007 from his medical doctor; thousands of which included oxycontin/oxycodone, avinza, soma compound, lexapro, suboxone and other controlled medications (see attached evidence). Even though the prescription was not close to running out, purchases were made from his insurance carrier, charge cards and cash. (I also attached evidence from his insurance carrier pertaining to office visits and prescription history dates paid by Anthem. We were not able to get a complete history). Kevin told me he also had his physician's cell phone number which he could call if he needed medications.

The current monitoring system which the Connecticut State Legislature passed in 2007 is a volunteer program on the part of the pharmacies. Implementing a central data base monitoring system so that narcotics and their prescribed patients cannot fall through the cracks would prove to be beneficial. Red flags should warn pharmacies, insurance carriers and physicians of a possible abuse and addiction. Kevin never needed a supplier on the street because it was so easy to get narcotics from a physician. If there is such a tight monitoring on over the counter medications like Sudafed, why can't there be strict monitoring for something that is suppose to be controlled i.e. narcotics? There is definitely a lack of communication between providers which contributes to the problem. This current system definitely failed my son and I am sure others. I would not want any other family to go through what we went through from Sept. 2007, when his addiction became apparent, until Dec. 2007 when we finally were able to get help by way of his arrest (not the first). I refused to bail him out and subsequently detoxication was implemented by himself. At this time Kevin accepted and admitted to his addiction which led to us getting him help. I had tried contacting several agencies including drug addiction facilities, state programs, Griffin Hospital, group homes as well as CT State Police, Consumer Protection Agency, Office of the Attorney General and the CT court system with no success because I was told it had to be Kevin, himself, who wanted help and he was not suicidal or hadn't hurt anyone. (At one time Kevin was found in his car on the side of the road with no vital signs. He was taken to Griffin Hospital, observed, and released because he was of no threat to anyone. No one asked about his wife and children) When arrested in Dec., while incarcerated, he was served with a restraining order which prevented him from being alone with his children and also served with divorce papers, which have all since been rescinded. Many months of rehabilitation, incarceration and counseling have made Kevin realize and accept that this will be a life long struggle that he attends to on a daily basis.

Accountability on the part of the providers is an ethical issue and I beg you to please make it impossible for other mothers to go through what I have gone through for the last year and a half. A special thanks to Senator Joan Hartley for taking the time to respond to my letter, meet with me and make this problem known.

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Respectfully submitted by

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