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My reason for being here today is to convince the committee to pass a bill that would monitor prescription drug use. I would like the committee to understand that without an innovative system for monitoring prescription drug use it is effortless to find doctors, pharmacies and insurance companies that are not in communication with each other.

The system that is in place now does not provide for monitoring prior to or during addiction. It was easy to go to different pharmacies to have my medications filled. If I went to one pharmacy (Rite Aid) on the first of the month, I knew I could easily go to another (CVS) or hospital pharmacy within a couple days because of a lack of communication. Sometimes I could have my scripts filled within five or six days of each other knowing that by going to different pharmacies they wouldn't know about the other. Large chain pharmacies, independently owned pharmacies or hospital pharmacies were all available to me because I knew they did not communicate with each other.

As someone who would like to prevent prescription drug addiction, I know the easiest way is to have a central monitoring system.

I had two medical insurance plans; one was my wife's and the other mine. Two different insurance companies who I knew did not communicate with each other. When I thought they might I dropped mine and had less to worry about. The one insurance company should have seen the tremendous amount of narcotics I was receiving, but for whatever reason, kept on paying.

Pharmacies should centralize their systems to talk to each other, from there the information sent to a monitoring board made up of the type of professionals and individuals mentioned in this bill, including someone who has manipulated the system of prescription drugs.

I believe that if a monitoring system, with some bite had been in place I may not be in the situation I'm in now. No drivers license, no job and a lot of stress. A monitoring system would have made getting the prescriptions filled much harder.

Prescription drug addiction, I believe is very different from illegal drug addiction. I did not have to go to unpleasant places to get it, so there was never any fear. The majority of the time it only cost me \$10.00 co-pay, so my wife didn't think I was spending a lot of money. There were no track marks in my arm or crack pipes in my house; I looked like a regular guy with a wife and three children. Illegal drugs are illegal and as ironic as it sounds I do not normally break the law.

Prescription drug use is easy, cheap and probably affecting more families than statistics show.

I know that there are many privacy laws involved when it comes to monitoring prescription drug use and financial considerations but as a prescription drug addict who knows how to manipulate the system, I hope this bill does not pass because if I do slip up and start abusing again I don't want you to make it difficult for me.