



125 Airport Road ♦ Concord, NH 03301 ♦ (603) 226-4900

March 8, 2010

Senator Jeanne Shaheen
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen,

This letter comes to you from a State-wide network of elders called Seniors Aid New Hampshire (SANH). We are residents of long term care and independent living homes in New Hampshire. We come together via conference calls and occasional get-togethers to discuss issues that are very important to us as senior citizens.

One issue that holds the utmost importance to us is the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) tightened interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act. This heightened enforcement of the rules involving doctors, pharmacies and nurses, and the strict controls of how pain medication can be delivered to us has resulted in unnecessary suffering and threatens our right to be pain-free.

We certainly agree with the DEA's desire to protect us by preventing drug-theft and abuse in our homes. However, the DEA is now interpreting the law in a way that prevents nurses and doctors from getting us the pain medication we need in certain emergency situations. By forbidding doctors from issuing verbal orders for pain medications during non-business hours, the DEA is effectively blocking our right to be pain-free.

Most of our homes do not have a pharmacy or a doctor in house. If doctors can't issue orders to in-house nurses over the phone, we are sometimes made to wait until the next day to obtain pain medication that we may need. The needless suffering caused when pain is not treated requires a lot of recovery time to 'catch up' and get it under control. No one should have to wait and suffer with pain that can be controlled with medication. We also cannot bear to hear a roommate who may be suffering from untreated pain. We find untreated pain to be unacceptable.

While the law needs to ensure that the system is working to make sure that there are proper controls on medications, something needs to be done to help meet our needs. Please help us recover our right to be pain-free as soon as possible. We appreciate your consideration and the time and effort that you put into fighting for our interests. Thank you very much for the hard work you do for all of us.

Sincerely,

The Members of Seniors Aid NH
C/O New Hampshire Health Care Association
125 Airport Rd.
Concord, NH 03301