

United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

April 21, 2010

Seniors Aid New Hampshire (SANH)
c/o Dan Klein, NHHCA
5 Sheep Davis Road
Suite E
Pembroke, NH 03275

Dear Seniors Aid New Hampshire:

The Special Committee on Aging, of which I chair, is grateful for the time and insight your organization contributed to our Committee's "listening session" on March 24, 2010 entitled, "The War on Drugs Meets the War on Pain: Nursing Home Patients Caught in the Crossfire." Your written statement for the record was welcome, and helped demonstrate the regional and national aspects of current problems involving pain being experienced by seniors and the elderly; a critical issue which we examined at this important session.

The Committee staff is continuing to follow up with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other relevant government agencies on implementing possible solutions to the troubling situations about which we heard from those invited by the Committee. We must ensure that the residents of nursing home facilities and hospices have adequate and timely access to appropriate pain medication—including controlled substances. We are examining methods of accomplishing this goal without interfering with the legitimate drug diversion law enforcement efforts ably carried out by the DEA.

All written statements can be found on the Committee's website. Thank you again for your interest in the Committee's work, and for your own work in safeguarding our seniors and the elderly.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
Chairman