



## "Observations of the Opioid Workgroup"

Hi. My name is Lauren Deluca and I am the Founding President and Executive Director of Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group a national nonprofit focused on patient rights and access to medicines, particularly for those suffering with painful illnesses and diseases.

I am also what is often referred to as “collateral damage” to the Nation’s attempt to regulate drug overdoses by restricting access to opioid medications.

Despite years of conducting these meetings with the CDC and other federal agencies patients continue to suffer egregiously due to the policies changes and even laws, supported by the “CDC Opioid Guidelines”

There is ample evidence of severe patient harms that directly stem from these guidelines. Instead of taking action we see the CDC claim “misapplication” yet made further no efforts to rectify the situation. Even this re-write we see taking place now is only being done as it was federally mandated to be reviewed and updated after 5 yrs.

Simply updating the Guideline with more politically correct terminology, while aligning with the pre-ordained goal of promoting multi-modal, and often inadequately researched modalities, as a solution to the systemic issues that these Guidelines have created is wholly inadequate. Not just for people with painful conditions, but for the entire nation. Given the Guidelines far-reaching application into the acute care-setting to surgical care and the treatment of those with rare debilitating conditions and even individuals in in their last days of life, in hospice care.

The committee has even acknowledged in their observations the competing goals of population health verse individual health. How can we expect improved public health outcomes when we are actively sacrificing individual healthcare rights? If it is not good for the individuals then it is not good for overall society. Never have I seen two goals pitted against one another and individuals’ constitutional rights sacrificed for “the greater good.” Who’s greater good?

The CDC and all the committee members have a responsibility to the entire nation with the work they are tasked to do here today. Simply satisfying pre-determined goals of federal agency reports is insufficient to addressing the serious issues these guidelines have caused. We as a nation can and should do much better. The citizenry deserves as much. Thank you.

Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group, Inc.  
Po Box 371  
Rutland, MA 01543  
[www.ciaag.net](http://www.ciaag.net)  
Phone (774) 262-6671  
Fax (508) 519-0183