

FRANK BURNS, MEMBER
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:
535 FAIRFIELD AVENUE
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15906
(814) 536-8400
FAX: (814) 533-2368

119 S. CENTER STREET
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15931
(814) 472-8021
FAX: (814) 472-1965

112-A MUNSTER ROAD
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946
(814) 736-7339 OR (814) 736-6452
FAX: (814) 736-3233



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
324 MAIN CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 202072
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2072
(717) 772-8056
FAX: (717) 772-9965

COMMITTEES

NORTHWEST DELEGATION, CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
LIQUOR CONTROL
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

February 13, 2017

Tom Wolf, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 245, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies for promoting opioid crisis

Dear Governor Wolf:

As we all know, Pennsylvania is facing a widespread opioid drug epidemic. Families are losing their loved ones to this dangerous and often-fatal drug – and we as a Commonwealth need to explore all avenues at our disposal to solve this problem and hold all perpetrators accountable.

I urge you to file a lawsuit against any and all pharmaceutical companies responsible for this crisis because of their negligence in informing consumers of the dangers of these types of drugs and their ruthless promotion of their use. “Big Pharma” is lining its pockets and the wallets of doctors who prescribe these medications, while the number of people addicted and affected in the Commonwealth continues to rise.

I firmly believe the cost to government and taxpayers of this widespread problem will only continue to increase unless we act on the supply end. Any monies that are received from this lawsuit should and would be best used for drug, alcohol and mental health treatments.

In Pennsylvania alone, there were over 10 million prescriptions for opioids issued in 2015. This helps create an opioids and heroin crisis that too often results in tragic ends, tearing families apart and causing countless overdose deaths.

It is my sincere hope that your administration will augment the Commonwealth’s drug-fighting efforts by filing a lawsuit against these companies, thus helping bring this epidemic to an end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Frank Burns'.

Frank Burns
State Representative
72nd Legislative District

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Josh Shapiro, Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
16th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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