

MARK DESAULNIER
11TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE TRAINING
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC ASSETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

327 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: (202) 225-2095
FAX: (202) 225-5609

101 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 210
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
PHONE: (925) 933-2660
FAX: (925) 933-2677

440 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR
RICHMOND, CA 94804
PHONE: (510) 620-1000
FAX: (510) 620-1005

October 19, 2017

Robert W. Patterson
Acting Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Acting Administrator Patterson:

Recent troubling reports by *The Washington Post* and *60 Minutes* outline the impact of legislation passed in the 114th Congress that reportedly limits the ability of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to effectively prevent drug distributors from breaking the law. In response to these reports, we are seeking additional information detailing DEA's interactions with Congress and the Administration, how the relationship between DEA and the pharmaceutical industry impacted these interactions, and what your agency can do to ensure that it does not repeat this utter breakdown of communication.


The Washington Post recently revealed that companies spent over \$106 million in support of Congressional efforts to roll back protections against the spread of the opioid crisis. These protections reportedly include limiting the DEA's ability to halt the shipment of large quantities of narcotics deemed to be suspicious. According to the *Post's* reporting, this legislation – which was developed by former high ranking DEA officials and deceptively marketed as an effort to help Americans in need of legitimate prescriptions – was bought and paid for by the pharmaceutical industry.

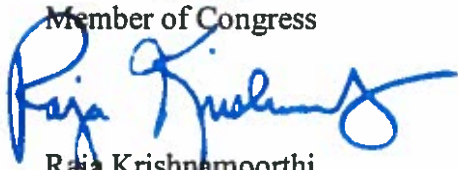
According to *60 Minutes*, the DEA had internal conversations expressing concern about this effort, but was ultimately unsuccessful in halting it. Please reply and provide information on the following:


1. Detail any outreach done to Members of Congress, Congressional Committees, Congressional Leadership, the Administration, or other government officials expressing DEA's concerns about the bill;
 - a. Provide information on suggested changes and/or improvements to the *Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act* that DEA compiled;
2. What can DEA do administratively, and what additional authorities would help the DEA restore its ability to prevent suspicious shipments of narcotics from being distributed; and
3. How many senior DEA officials have moved to the pharmaceutical industry in the last ten years?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,


Mark DeSaunter
Member of Congress


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Jim Cooper
Member of Congress


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress