

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2019

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

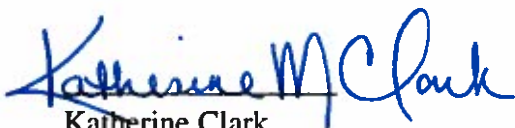
Dear Dr. Ghebreyesus,

On May 3, 2017, several members of Congress sent a letter to your predecessor, former Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan, expressing concern that Purdue Pharma L.P. (Purdue), the drug manufacturer widely blamed for instigating an opioid crisis in the United States, was seeking to expand its sales to international markets. We were concerned about the possibility of triggering another opioid crisis on an even larger, global scale. The World Health Organization's (WHO) failure to respond to our warning prompted the attached investigation into your organization's opioid prescription guidelines. What we found is deeply disturbing.

The WHO's 2011 and 2012 guidelines contain dangerously misleading and, in some instances, outright false claims about the safety and efficacy of prescription opioids. Alarming, these guidelines appear to closely match content outlined by Purdue's strategic planning documents from the late 1990s and early 2000s. We have come to believe that Purdue has leveraged its financial ties to successfully impact the content of the WHO's guidelines. As a result, the WHO is, in effect, promoting the chronic use of opioids.

We hope that after ignoring our warnings in 2017, you will immediately rescind these two guidelines, provide us with a comprehensive explanation of why your internal controls failed to prevent this scheme, and issue a warning to the world that your 2011 and 2012 guidelines should not be followed.

Sincerely,



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress