



- More than 350,000 Americans have died from opioid overdoses since 1999. This is the worst drug addiction epidemic in American history.
- The epidemic was caused by the overprescribing of opioids. As prescriptions soared, addiction and overdose deaths among both pain patients and nonmedical users increased in lockstep.
- Overdose deaths are rising faster than ever in opioid-addicted heroin users because fentanyl is increasingly mixed into heroin or sold as heroin.
- The Federal Government's efforts to combat the epidemic are uncoordinated and under-funded.
- The death toll will continue to mount until effective treatment is easier to access than heroin, fentanyl and opioid painkillers.

## **PLATFORM**

**We – the FED UP! Coalition to End the Opioid Epidemic – call for a coordinated Federal Government response that will take all necessary steps to end the opioid addiction epidemic including:**

- **Adequately fund treatment, public health surveillance, interdiction, and research.**
- **Ensure that evidence-based treatment is easily available to all Americans suffering from opioid use disorder, regardless of their ability to pay for it.**
- **Remove all barriers to buprenorphine treatment.**
- **Ensure access to harm reduction services, including clean syringes and naloxone.**
- **Mandate prescriber use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.**
- **Launch public awareness campaigns to communicate risks of opioids, reduce stigma of addiction and reduce bias against medication-assisted treatment.**
- **Ensure access to interdisciplinary pain care programs to help opioid-dependent chronic pain patients reduce opioid use and improve function.**
- **Stop undue influence of the pharmaceutical industry on FDA, Congress, doctors, hospitals, advocacy organizations, and others responsible for the public health.**
- **Change policies at the FDA to:**
  - **Stop approval of new opioids lacking major advantages over existing drugs.**
  - **Prohibit marketing of opioids as safe and effective for chronic pain.**
  - **Add a suggested upper dose limit and maximum duration of use in its labelling.**
  - **Seek removal of ultra-high dosage unit opioids.**
- **Change policy at the DEA to mandate prescriber education, free of pharmaceutical industry bias, for all DEA registrants who intend to prescribe more than a 3-day supply of opioids.**