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Office of the Governor

January 31, 2018

Elaine Pozycki
Founder
Prevent Opioid Abuse
389 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Ms. Pozycki:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding how the opioid epidemic has impacted your family. I am sorry for the loss of your son, Stevie. I am encouraged that you have taken this tragedy and used it to ensure no other families feel the impact of this terrible epidemic.

My administration has been working on addressing opioid abuse and overdose for a number of years. We lose at least one member of the Nevada family every day. In order to address this scourge on society that is tearing at the fabric of our communities, my office spent 2016 holding statewide meetings and summits to hear about the problems our state is facing and to form solutions. During these meetings we heard from victims who have been impacted by opioid or prescription drug abuse. I was disheartened to hear Nevadans in recovery tell me, "If someone would have just told me the risks, I might not have taken the opioid medication." After hearing this, I knew that this was a problem that needed to be addressed. We had to ensure that prescribers were educating their patients on the inherent risks of taking prescription opioids for the treatment of pain.

During the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session I introduced Assembly Bill 474 (AB474), the Nevada Controlled Substance Abuse Prevention Act. This bill passed the Legislature unanimously, and became effective January 1, 2018. The bill establishes prescribing protocols for Controlled Substances Schedule 2, 3, and 4 for the treatment of pain. One part of the prescribing protocols requires an signed informed consent for all initial prescriptions. AB474 outlines provisions that need to be contained on the informed consent including the potential risks and benefits, the proper use to the controlled substance, the risks of dependency, and safe storage and disposal.

Thank you again for reaching out to my office regarding your work. Please continue in this fight, as we all must do more to ensure that we don't lose any more of our sons or daughters.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandoval".

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor