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September 21, 2015

Jack Y. Zhang, Ph.D
Chief Executive Officer
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
11570 6th Street
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

RE: Naloxone

Dear Dr. Zhang:

As you know, opioid abuse is a nationwide epidemic – one that has hit Connecticut particularly hard. Heroin deaths have increased dramatically across the state over the past three years. According to one recent report, heroin, for example, played a direct role in 306 fatalities last year; up from 222 deaths in 2013 and 100 in 2012. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration's *National Heroin Threat Assessment Survey* (April 2015) specifically notes that the heroin threat is particularly high in New England. These deaths are occurring not just in Connecticut's larger cities, but in geographically diverse towns across the state. Opioid abuse and misuse, whether of heroin or prescription painkillers, is becoming a public health crisis - - exacting a huge human toll on the public in terms of physical dependence, addiction, overdose, and death, while straining state and municipal coffers to combat the problem.

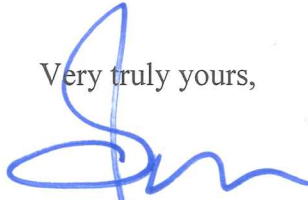
While access to Naloxone will not solve the problem of opioid abuse or misuse, it will save lives. For this reason, Connecticut has taken a number of steps over the last several years to get Naloxone into the hands of first responders, law enforcement officials and even family members who might be able to save a life. Since October 2014, for example – when the State passed a law allowing for state police to administer the drug – state troopers in Connecticut have responded to 34 life-threatening emergencies where the stricken person was unconscious from a heroin-related overdose. Today, some, perhaps most, of those 34 people are alive because the officers were able to administer Naloxone.

Unfortunately, just as Connecticut and other states were seeking to make Naloxone more available for first responders, Amphastar – without any advance notice - - dramatically *increased* its prices for Naloxone. To date, I have yet to see any public justification from Amphastar for these increases. In the face of a public health crisis and at a crucial time in our battle to save lives that may be lost to the scourge of opioid abuse and addiction, these price increases will undoubtedly make our efforts to save lives much more difficult.

I would like to point out that Naloxone use has been steadily growing in Connecticut. The State has taken steps to actively promote the use of your potentially life-saving product. (See, e.g., <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?q=509650>) Our expectation is that this growth will continue, but I have serious concerns that the steep price increase, occurring in the midst of significant budget constraints that the state is currently encountering, may very well negatively impact state and municipal first responders' efforts to utilize Naloxone at the very time when it is needed the most.

I would like to speak to you and/or your representatives about how Amphastar can alleviate my concerns over these unnecessary and unacceptable price spikes. Please contact Assistant Attorney General Michael E. Cole, 860-808-5171, at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues.

Very truly yours,



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General