



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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September 26, 2012

Dear Parents,

I have some distressing information to share with you about prescription drug abuse.

- One in six teens has used a prescription drug (not prescribed to them by a doctor) in order to get high or change their mood, and most have gotten that drug from family or friends.
- Prescription drugs are now the most commonly abused drugs among 12 to 13 year olds, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.
- In many major cities, including San Diego, more Americans die from drug overdoses than in car crashes – a trend that is driven by prescription painkillers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As a parent, and as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, I am very concerned about the abuse of prescription drugs by our young people, and I know you are, too. That is why I have joined with The Partnership at Drugfree.org to help get the word out about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and what can be done about it. You can help reduce the likelihood that children in our community will gain access to prescription drugs by taking the steps identified in the Tip Sheet I have attached to this letter. In addition, this Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., you can take any unwanted prescription drugs that you have to one of the DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back locations listed on the attached flyer.

With these simple steps, we can work together to help reduce prescription drug abuse in our community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laura E. Duffy", is positioned above the typed name.

**LAURA E. DUFFY**  
United States Attorney