

Alderman Jim Bohl
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Bohl,

I'm writing to call your attention to the testimony provided to the Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioids and Cocaine Task Force (CCHOCTF) on July 21, 2017 by Kathy Federico, DEA Tactical Diversion Squad. You can view this at http://milwaukee.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1410 (go to 1:27:50) for the full context in which Ms. Federico made her comments.

Here are her concluding remarks (emphasis is mine):

“...And you did talk about some of the administrative proceedings that we can take against *our physicians* that are over prescribing and **not prescribing in a legitimate manner**, that puts oxycodone and hydrocodone on the street.

And we do have a lot of those.

And I mean the other issue we have is, is having ahh — **prosecutions** — of physicians that are pumping pills on the street without people having legitimate medical problems.

And that's an issue we address all the time because *nobody* wants to put a doctor behind — in jail.”

The DEA licenses “*our physicians*” to prescribe controlled substances.

Watch the video — she could barely get herself to say the word **prosecutions**.

She almost said ‘because nobody wants to put a doctor *behind bars*’, but caught herself and said — “*in jail*” — as if to soften the reality of what these pill pushers deserve.

The State does not have a problem putting the rest of us *behind bars* for violating the controlled substances act, but Doctors? — come on — nobody wants to do that!

Per: FILE NO: 161061

Title: Substitute resolution relating to the creation of a City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force.

Here is a summary of Task Force’s mandate:

"Further Resolved, That the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force is charged with investigating and making recommendations regarding ways to ensure long-term health and safety of City and County residents by reducing fatal and nonfatal overdose from misuse of opioids, heroin, and synthetic analogs and cocaine (in both powder and crack form) through data-driven public health prevention approaches; and, be it..."

Upon reviewing the PLAN OVERVIEW and goals in the most recent Work Plan Draft (as of 11-29-17) <https://milwaukee.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2965576&GUID=0563F682-215F-46EF-B751-663D43F417EC&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=161554>, we see there is no effort being made to reduce the supply of illegal narcotics available on the street — *as if that could not possibly help to reduce fatal and nonfatal overdose and misuse of opioids, heroin, and synthetic analogs and cocaine.*

The Task Force is choosing to ignore one of the root causes of the current opioid “crisis” i.e., **supply**.

Please contact the Milwaukee CCHOCTF, or better yet, Ms. Federico (kathy.L.Federico@usdoj.gov) and ask:

How is the DEA addressing the issue of "... physicians that are pumping pills on the street without people having legitimate medical problems"?

How does the DEA handle this — "all the time"?

Please take action with the Task Force and the DEA to address the serious issue of doctors illegally prescribing controlled substances that Ms. Federico reported.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Mozina".

Paul Mozina

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cc: Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Common Council members, Milwaukee County Board members