



# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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February 13, 2015

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

Dear Dr. Zhang:

I am aware of the recent agreement that you have with New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, allowing for a rebate for Naloxone, the opiate antidote drug.

Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the nation and joins many others who are severely plagued by the opiate epidemic. Although prescription opiates currently account for more overdose deaths, heroin has been on a consistent rise. In Ohio, heroin, alone, contributes to as many as 18 overdose deaths a week, and as recent as yesterday, we learned a small county hospital faced 38 overdoses within three days.

Ohio has worked hard to get Naloxone in the right hands. My office has developed training videos for law enforcement and families. Our community outreach team discusses the benefits of Naloxone at conferences and community meetings on a weekly basis. We routinely promote the successful efforts of local law enforcement who carry Naloxone and encourage them to share their success stories with other agencies. In 2014, we featured a speaker at our annual Law Enforcement Conference, who discussed successful use of Naloxone.

Through Naloxone, law enforcement officers, family members, and other first responders can reverse an opiate overdose, saving the life of the person experiencing the overdose. Without warning, Amphastar chose to dramatically increase its Naloxone prices. This decision will make efforts to save lives much more difficult.

Naloxone use is steadily growing in Ohio. Between 2003 and 2012, we estimate that 74,000 doses were administered. In 2012, alone, 10,589 doses were administered. Our expectation is that this growth will continue. Given Ohio's use and promotion of Naloxone, I would ask for the same consideration you gave the State of New York and seek an agreement similar to what you offered New York. The \$6.00 rebate per dose for police departments and other agencies who distribute Naloxone would make a tremendous difference.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact Jonathan Fulkerson, Deputy Chief Counsel, at 614-644-8901 if you have additional questions.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine  
Ohio Attorney General  
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