

WEST VIRGINIA'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC

West Virginia now has the **highest mortality rate from prescription drug overdoses in the country, and hydrocodone is one of the top drugs of choice.**

- Deaths from opioids like hydrocodone have increased 605 percent since 1999.
- Today, almost 17,000 Americans per year are killed from prescription drug overdose deaths from opioids, like hydrocodone.
- In West Virginia, 28.9 per every 100,000 people suffer prescription drug overdose fatalities. The national average is 13 per every 100,000.
- In southern West Virginia, 56.3 out of 100,000 people die from prescription drug overdoses.
- In Boone County, 64.6 per every 100,000 people die from prescription drug overdoses. That's almost 5 times the national average.

ZOHYDRO: The most powerful hydrocodone drug ever to be sold

This new drug poses a severe threat to our communities, and it will only fuel addiction and death in West Virginia and across this nation.

- Zohydro lacks abuse deterrent features, which means the drug can be easily crushed, snorted and injected.
- With 10 times the hydrocodone of Vicodin or Lortab, just two tablets is enough to kill a person.
- The Food and Drug Administration's own Advisory Committee, made up of the best doctors and health care experts, voted 11-2 against Zohydro's approval for many reasons:
 - The drug is easy to abuse,
 - Patients died during clinical testing,
 - We already have enough opioids on the market, and
 - Opioids are poor drugs for chronic pain.

Unless this product is reformulated to prevent abuse, Senator Manchin strongly believes Zohydro must be kept off the market for the well-being of our country, especially our families and our youth.