

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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Opening Statement
Representative Mark DeSaulnier
Committee on Oversight and Reform
Hearing – “The SACKLER Act and Other Policies to Promote Accountability for the
Sackler Family’s Role in the Opioid Epidemic”
June 8, 2021

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman, for your leadership and your partnership on this issue.

Back in December, we held a hearing on the Sackler family’s role in the opioid crisis. The family’s greed and the devastation they have caused cannot be overstated.

Since the release of OxyContin in 1996, the Sackler family has withdrawn more than \$10 billion from Purdue Pharma. While the Sackler family was earning billions, nearly 500,000 Americans died of opioid overdoses from 1999-2019.

My focus is on bringing these bad actors to justice. The Sackler family is trying to use legal loopholes to avoid accountability for their actions. I’m proud to be leading on the SACKLER Act with Chairwoman Maloney, which would prevent the Sackler family from receiving immunity against government lawsuits through Purdue Pharma’s bankruptcy.

Holding the Sackler family accountable to the fullest extent of the law would provide some measure of justice, but it will never bring back the hundreds of thousands of lives cut short by the opioid epidemic.

Today’s hearing is a bright spot in the dark saga of the opioid epidemic. I want to thank our witnesses for being on the front lines of exposing the greed behind the opioid epidemic, and for fighting to enact change so that this never happens again.

Again, thank you Madame Chairwoman and I look forward to today’s hearing.

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