



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
State of Oregon  
900 Court Street NE, S-211  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 743 – Relating to Dextromethorphan**

Dear Chairwoman Anderson:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 member coalitions that Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) represents, 209 of which are in Oregon, I am writing in strong support of S.B. 743, which would prohibit the sale of over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicine containing the ingredient dextromethorphan to those under the age of 18.

Unfortunately, communities throughout the country have witnessed the devastation that accompanies the misuse and abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs first hand – especially as it relates to DXM. Like other prescription and over the counter medicines, when used properly, DXM is completely safe. However, in recent years, a subset of teens have been abusing this drug. When ingested in high dosages, as much as 25 times the recommended amount, side effects can include confusion, dizziness, double or blurred vision, slurred speech, loss of physical coordination, vomiting and rapid heartbeat.

Age restrictions provide an effective way to limit access to the small teen population likely to abuse cough medicine. Twelve states – including Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington – have passed similar legislation, giving parents greater control over their children's access to medicines.

CADCA sincerely appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue and respectfully urges the committee's support for S.B. 743. Thank you for bringing attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Dean  
Major General, US Army Retired  
Chairman and CEO