



INDIAN DRUG MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

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PARTNERS IN GLOBAL HEALTHCARE

February 28, 2014

The Revenue Secretary,
Department of Revenue,
Ministry of Finance,
128-A/North Block,
New Delhi-110001



Sub: **Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Bill, 2014**

Dear Sir,

IDMA wishes to congratulate the Ministry's leadership efforts in passing the NDPS Bill, 2014 and the landmark policy shift in ensuring availability of Opioids for needy patients, suffering from life limiting diseases such as Cancer, AIDS etc. The passing of the above bill puts across new challenges for Government, Medical community, Industry and Trade to meet the health care demands of needy patients.

The foremost challenge is the urgent need to meet the potential demand of Opioids for treatment of life limiting diseases. As you are aware, sir, the Department of Revenue's intent to grant license to grow Poppy and extract Alkaloids, to the Industry has been going on since 2006. This process needs to be expedited immediately and completed in a time bound manner, if Industry has to meet the challenges of the demand.

Secondly, there is a need to provide confidence to Industry, Trade & Medical community including hospitals, clinics etc. to manufacture, distribute & prescribe Opioid medicines, in context of the Draconian laws governing the NDPS Act. We therefore submit that, the Government consider the recommendation of Standing Committee on Finance on "Compounding of offences".

AFFORDABLE MEDICINES FOR ALL

Thirdly, we would submit that with increasing legitimate uses of Narcotic, Psychotropic and Controlled substances for the benefit of mankind, a nodal Narcotic Agency may be considered, in line with US-DEA and other similar regulatory bodies across the world.

IDMA is committed to be partners in providing affordable healthcare to the Indian patient population and we endeavor to work with various stakeholders in enabling this.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



S V Veerramani
President

- CC: 1. The Additional Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance North Block, New Delhi- 110001 - Delivered
2. The Joint Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi- 110001 - Delivered
3. The Director (Narcotics), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi- 110001 - Delivered.