VT. Attorney General

October 29, 2009

Dear Sir;

My name is Armand Allen, I am 55 years old and I am disabled. I am writing in regard to your investigation into drug samples given to doctors.

I have glogged arteries in both my thighs and in both sides of my pelvis. I also am a diabetic and take four shots of insulin per day. I have high blood pressure, diabetic kidney disease and vessiletes in both my legs from the knees down, and diabetic neuropathy in my feet.

My wife has rheumatoid arthritis and a bad disc in her back along with calcium deposits on her right hip. She is also 55.

We are lucky to be covered by my wifes insurance from her work, but still have co pays for all our

prescriptions, doctor visits and hospital stays

Together we have 14 pill prescriptions, 2 insulins, needles, and bandages for my legs to buy each month. The co pays range from $4-$50 per month depending on the ~~drug~~ drug.

Being disabled, I am on a very limited income, $1225 per month. My wife is still able to work, for now. I don't mean to ramble, just want you to be aware of our complete situation

We spend between $200-$400 per month just on medication, this does not include the $25 co pay every time we see a doctor, or the $500 when we go in the hospital.

My doctor that treats my diabetes is able to offer me samples of my insulins, which saves me $50 a month, he also

has given me samples of my needles and test strips, which saves us another 30 a month.

These samples are not always available, but I thank God when they are. With winter soon upon us, very honestly, we will be forced to choose between heat or medicine, and heat will win out. We are not eligible for fuel assistance because my wifes income is to large.

We dont live high off the hog, we rent a 35 year old mobile home, very rarely eat out, turn off our lights and keep our thermostat as low as we can without freezing the pipes, and yet we struggle every winter month trying to make ends meet.

We are also better off than some people in Vermont at this point. Without some free samples from doctors, many people, who desperately need them

are going to go without their medications, some may die without them.

None of our doctors prescribe brand name drugs, always generics, and while we agree with the fact that some doctors might push the sale of brand names, ours never have.

Please consider the poor and elderly while doing your investigation.

Thank You for your time and concern
Armand + Shirley Allen

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