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3 March 2005

Billy Tauzin, President  
PhRMA  
1100 Fifteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-1707

Dear Billy and PhRMA:

MindFreedom Support Coalition International is a grassroots non-profit uniting over 100 sponsor groups in 15 countries working for human rights and alternatives in mental health. The United Nations has accredited our organization as a Non Governmental Organization.

We are concerned about the following behavior of PhRMA and/or its member pharmaceutical companies:

- Misrepresenting the truth about psychotropic drugs to Congress and the American public.
- Covering up evidence from clinical trials and other research that demonstrates that psychotropics can be harmful, cause damage to the human brain and increase the risk of suicidal and violent behavior.
- Covering up evidence of clinical trials that demonstrates that many psychotropic drugs are not more effective than placebo.
- Supporting advertisements that suggest that psychotropic drugs help correct chemical imbalances or other defects in the brain, statements for which there is no valid scientific evidence and which are therefore fraudulent and misleading.
- Providing large amounts of monies, without public disclosure, to organizations which purport to be objective proponents of humane mental health treatment but who actually promote psychotropic drugs as a primary treatment and who also support forced treatment (for example, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill).

These untruths and deceptions underpin the pervasive practice of the involuntary administration of psychotropic drugs – forced psychiatric drugging -- which PhRMA and its members support and promote.

We request that, as the main lobbying arm and main representative of the pharmaceutical manufacturing and research industry, PhRMA take the following actions:

1. Issue a public statement condemning the involuntary administration of psychotropic drugs to any person;
2. Issue a public statement that PhRMA and its member companies will cease and desist from misrepresenting the true nature of research findings on psychotropic drugs and covering up evidence of the harm they do and the hazards they create;
3. Issue a public statement asking PhRMA's member companies to cease and desist from presenting advertisements that contain false and misleading suggestions that psychotropic drugs correct chemical imbalances in the brain;
4. Issue a public statement asking PhRMA's member companies to cease and desist from providing financial support to organizations that promote involuntary psychiatric treatment, and;
5. Meet prior to March 31, 2005 with representatives of our organization to address these concerns.

Failing that, we intend to conduct a non-violent, public demonstration outside of PhRMA headquarters in Washington, DC at 12 noon on Monday, May 2, 2005 to protest this behavior by PhRMA and your member organizations. We need to receive your positive response by March 28, 2005, to call off the demonstration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Oaks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Oaks, Executive Director