



November 14, 2023

Governor:

Recent opioid settlements have produced billions of dollars; dollars that should be flowing to the hardest hit victims of the opioid epidemic. But there is a growing risk that the everyday people hardest hit by the pandemic will be left by the wayside as the money is diverted—and squandered—by bureaucrats and public officials.

To date, public officials have had a horrible track record of prioritizing victims and everyday consumers when it comes to massive settlements like this. This waste and abuse of settlement dollars is an ongoing problem, [dating back to the national settlements over tobacco and mortgages](#). Whether it is [sending money to quasi-governmental slush funds](#) that public officials run without traditional oversight, [funding unrelated government programs](#), or [financing perks for the public officials themselves](#), there is a tragic history of money being diverted away from those most in need.

And there are early indications that [the same problems are rearing their heads again](#) with regard to the recent national opioid settlements.

Victims deserve better. If billions are coming from opioid settlements, it should be going to those who lost loved ones, not pet projects of public officials.

But it isn't too late. That is why we are demanding that you step up, put guardrails in place, and make sure that the money coming to your state flows to the real victims of the opioid crisis.

There is no excuse for letting consumers down. [People are watching, they are keeping track](#), and they will call foul.

You are the chief executive of your state. The buck stops with you. And you are on notice.

Sincerely,  
*O.H. Skinner*

O.H. Skinner  
Executive Director  
Alliance For Consumers