-- Discouragement of use, again through a labeling change, for the chronic, long-term conditions which would necessitate that the patient continually have sizeable quantities of the drug on hand.

-- A patient package insert which would warn the patient of the drug's dangers.

Only the Food and Drug Administration can pass upon the viability of these suggestions. Certainly, a review of propoxyphene's potency, efficacy and risk-benefit ratio by FDA's medical experts is in order in light of the questions raised in the petition by Dr. Wolfe and the Public Citizen Health Research Group. In support of this, the Drug Enforcement Administration will provide appropriate data to the FDA.

Whatever the mechanism, it is imperative that every effort be made to substantially reduce the number of propoxyphene-related deaths. The Drug Enforcement Administration will work to this end.

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