



Bob Ferguson
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON
1125 Washington Street SE – PO Box 40100 – Olympia, WA 98504-0100

June 1, 2022

Dear Local Elected Leaders:

After six months of trial, my office recently announced an agreement in principle with the three largest opioid distributors, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen and McKesson.

The resolution will result in these three companies paying approximately \$518 million over 17 years if all conditions are met. If approved, this will also constitute one of the largest settlements in state history.

As detailed in the attached agreement, **you and your colleagues will have discretion to earmark a significant portion of these resources to combat the opioid epidemic in your communities.**

The opioid distributor settlement will only be finalized after 100% of litigating Washington local governments and 90% of non-litigating Washington local governments with a population over 10,000 agree to the deal **by executing and returning the enclosed Participation Form. We have a deadline of September 23, 2022 for local government approval.**

I strongly urge you to agree to the settlement. While no settlement is perfect, this resolution will result in our state receiving significantly more than we would have received if we accepted the national resolution earlier this year. If we do not receive the requisite participation by the local governments, we will not receive the \$518 million to help Washington combat the opioid epidemic.

Additionally, if approved, these resources will start flowing into our communities this year to abate the crisis that continues to devastate families across our state.

Local governments will be able to choose from a broad array of strategies to combat the epidemic. As examples, this includes:

- Supporting individuals in treatment and recovery, including providing comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with opioid use disorder, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training or childcare;
- Addressing the needs of pregnant women and their families, including those with babies with neonatal disorder;
- Preventing opioid misuse, overprescribing and overdoses through, among other strategies, school-based and youth-focused programs, public education campaigns, increased availability and distribution of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses, additional training and enhancements to the prescription drug monitoring program; and
- Supporting first responders, among other strategies.

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This structure is similar to the arrangement that 48 other states and local governments have entered into with opioid distributors. Importantly, no group of litigating or non-litigating jurisdictions has decided not to approve the national settlement, and this resolution will bring tens of millions more to our communities.

Since February of last year, our office has recovered a total of more than \$730 million from opioid litigation, including \$183 million in recoveries from Purdue Pharma, more than \$18 million from Mallinckrodt, and \$13.5 million from McKinsey to address harms from the opioid crisis. **This includes \$159 million in additional resources because we rejected national settlements involving Purdue Pharma and the distributors and took those corporations to court.**

Our trial with Johnson & Johnson is scheduled for September 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

BOB FERGUSON
Attorney General

RWF/jlg

Encl.