

**Administrator Cole**  
**Healthcare Fraud Takedown Press Conference**  
**Remarks as Given**

Thank you. We stand here today united by a shared commitment to protect Americans and save American lives.

It's been said, but bears repeating — healthcare fraud is not just a financial crime. It's a public safety threat, a public health threat, and a direct threat to the trust Americans place in our healthcare system.

Let me be clear, medical providers who fuel addiction, endanger lives, and profit from the pain they cause are no different from any other drug trafficker.

DEA occupies a unique place in this fight. We sit at the intersection of healthcare, regulation, and law enforcement. Our job is to protect the controlled substance supply chain and stop those who seek to exploit it.

The Controlled Substances Act created a closed system of distribution — one designed to keep medications available for legitimate care while preventing diversion and abuse. Every link in that chain has a responsibility to protect patients and preserve trust in the system.

Being a DEA registrant is not just a privilege; it is a responsibility. It is a promise to patients that medical decisions will be based on clinical judgment — not financial gain.

While the vast majority of healthcare professionals honor that promise, criminals have found ways to exploit the system for personal gain.

As both a law enforcement and regulatory agency, DEA sees things others don't. We connect the dots between drug diversion, fraud and criminal activity. And when we find those abusing positions of trust, we act. We use every authority available — criminal, civil, and administrative — to protect patients and preserve trust in our nation's healthcare system.

In this takedown alone, DEA developed 18 criminal and civil cases in coordination with U.S. Attorneys' Offices and issued a record — 928 — administrative actions to prevent future harm. This includes:

- 205 Orders to Show Cause
- 53 Immediate Suspension Orders
- 642 Surrenders for Cause

In one case we worked with our partners, we uncovered \$36 million dollars in Medicaid fraud, resulting in the seizure of \$15 million dollars, and 6 aircraft from a single physician.

In another case, we identified a pair of pill mill clinics responsible for issuing [prescriptions totaling] more than 2 million oxycodone pills and over 900,000 hydrocodone pills.

Every scheme chips away at the safeguards put in place to ensure patients get the medication they need — safely and lawfully.

Americans should never have to wonder whether a prescription was written because it was needed or because someone saw an opportunity to profit.

Our message to any medical provider who abuses that trust is simple: if you choose personal greed over professional responsibility, DEA will hold you accountable.

DEA has been entrusted to save American lives. We will not stand idle while criminals exploit patients, abuse positions of trust, and put profits over people.

Thank you.