

Petition to Stop the Psychiatric Drug Crisis in the US Military

Petition Comments

Bobby Baxter	Army Security Agency veteran, 1969-1972. Nothing has changed, whatsoever. Speak out.. get PsychoWhacked. PsychoDrugged. The shameless criminal response of criminals. Silent freedom.. freedom silenced.
David Guild	"The suicide rate of those on active duty in the U.S. military is now at its highest point since they started keeping track in 1980." This is exactly what I predicted would happen since the drugging began. Drugging = suicide. Read the FDA warning. Don't be fooled again. If the drugging increases, then it's not by ignorance, it's by design. More suicide does not mean they need more drugs. If it continues, my second prediction: more suicide. And the names Obama and McCain will become synonymous with tyrants and death. Here's 3 questions for you: How much money are you receiving from BIG PHARMA? You know these drugs cause miscarriage/birth defects, so why do you support the Mothers Act? You like killing our troops and our babies? We are waiting for your 3 answers.
Sarah Simpson	According to research, the combination of therapy and drugs is most effective with less relapse, therapy alone is more effective than drugs alone.
Jon Ellzey	Addressing people on the basis that treatment is only possible with drugs is not workable. The more people are drugged the worse the many get. Stop this movement and began treating people in a more holistic way- mind, body AND spirit. Not just the body and brain.
William J. Wells	And I worked as a Congressional Intern and have visited with officials at both parties.
Anonymous	As a practicing psychologist trained in modalities that do not require medication for the treatment of PTSD and BI, among other disorders, I urge the military to adhere to the highest standard of psychological and psychiatric care. Medication as a singular treatment does not meet that standard.
Sarah Edmonds	As a psychologist I am deeply concerned about the over-reliance upon psychiatric medications to treat problems related to trauma. Not only have these medications (SSRI's) been shown to be no more effective than placebo, they have dangerous side effects which can lead to even more unstable, erratic, and potentially violent behavior. People experiencing emotional difficulties stemming from experiencing traumatic events need therapeutic interventions that allow them to relive and release the trauma in order to heal.

Elaina Jannell	As a psychologist, I urge the U.S. Military to increase psychological services available to our military personnel in addition to psychotropic medications.
Carolyn Meece	As a survivor of "Soviet-style Psychiatric Terrorism" human beings deserve better treatment than what is offered by the low life psychiatric industry. Many psychiatrists and the drug companies have knowingly lied for decades and decades about the evil killer psychiatric drugs.
Barry Rubinstein	As a vetren, a pill will never replace the concern & compession I received from both my superiors and comrades. Also, the most rewarding experiences I had was helping out, being supportive of everyone that I had the privelage of serving with. We have to individualize, not pillize, because we all all in this to ether.THE SARGE
Anonymous	As someone who has been dealing with depression, and anxiety for most of my life, I can tell you that psychotropic drugs don't work for me and the side effects are worse than my depression and anxiety. There are other, more natural, treatment protocols available now that work better than drugs.
dan frey	better to give a "human soldier" who is having a hard time a professional caring person to talk to than a pill
Edward Eichel	Big Pharma and the American Psychiatric Association should be tried for drug trafficking. The allegation is Crimes Against Humanity.
Dean Kendall	Bring the troops home now! Provide the care they need, not pills to gloss over their psychic wounds until they can bear no more and kill themselves or others! Prosecute the govt and military leaders that put them in harms way for an immoral and illegal war and occupation - Justice is healing!
Ellen Liversidge	BTW I noticed you slipped the Mental Health Parity Act in during the "bailout" vote. This bill will result in more drug pushing and more deaths. Please examine your consciences regarding taking lobby money from Pharma. They killed my son with Lilly's psych drug Zyprexa.
Steve Maxwell	Come on, candidate(s). You know what you need to do(?).
Anonymous	Do you know that experiments on monkeys show that "neuroleptics shrink the brain starting by the frontal lobe?" (Source: Neuropsychopharmacology 9 March 2005) PLEASE DO STOP GIVING NEUROLEPTICS TO OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS AND UBCAPACITATING THEM VOLUNTARILY -- handicapping them for life.
Barbara Tomlinson	Don't doughtow to Big Pharma. There are far better treatments available.

Beth Kulacz	Drugs alone are an ineffective way to treat a psychiatric condition, especially one as severe as PTSD. SSRIs have been linked to increased suicide risk by many studies, and are listed with such risks by the FDA. Suicide is quite high among military personnel, and this needs to be addressed. It does not need to be increased further by "treating" it with drugs known to increase suicide risk.
judith varley	drugs are useful to 'cap' a crisis but are NOT the way to treat traumatised people who have seen and been caught up in events no sensitive human should ever have to experience. Their experiences are often denied, and may still haunt them 70 or more years later - reference First World War survivors.
Nina Wouk	Drugs may be relatively inexpensive but they are also the least effective intervention.
Miriam Weiss	Eventually, I would hope to stop the excessive use of psychiatric drugs for all over-medicated Americans.
Christine Runquist	Everyone deserves better than a bunch of pills being given or forced on them! It's a real shame that this is still a reality in this day and age. I have seen it with my own eyes. It not only happens in the military, but in mental hospitals and out patient facilities worldwide.
Anonymous	find better ways to help
Laura Kubick-Simmons	Forced psychiatric drugging is a form of psychological/chemical warfare.
Kathy Giera	From my own family, I can see the three generation destruction of the family because psychiatric drugs are dumped on veterans. Then they destroy the life of the children when there are problems in the environment and say they have a genetic defect and put them on drugs. This is all very against any normal concept of a God. Why don't you work on eradicating pornography and arresting John's and a valid banking system and healthy local economies instead of destroying the family?
Heather Patenaude	Get psych meds away from soldiers and trama victims. Come up with other safer alternatives. Human support through compassion can relieve alot of soldiers pain and suffering.
Neal Chaves	Get Real! 09/22/08 Dear Comrades in Arms and Loyal American Caregivers, I have been following with great interest the reports of medical investigations into post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in U.S. veterans. You may find the following narrative helpful, and if you do, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to meet with you personally. Professionals are encouraged to access my U.S. Submarine Force and VA records, or what remains of them (search the term "erasure of personal history"). My SS# is XXX-XXX-0781. Write me for a release of information.
Anonymous	God help us!

Jeannette Vos	Good food and herbal whole food, live enzyme supplementation would show that we care.
Paul Nelson	Thank you so much for your important work. Having battled depression myself, I now am concerned and disturbed by the dangers of the "bio-medical model" for treating mental illnesses. Thanks again.
Shannon Bogdanich	The people of this country, be them our military or other, first and foremost need HOPE in the way of good jobs, where they can apply themselves, build, and create a future for themselves and their families. Considering the overwhelming evidence (and first hand experience) of how harmful these drugs are and the corrupt and greed ridden market which they have created, it is a huge waste of taxpayers money and serves only to make an already bad situation worse. All you have to do is look at a fraction of the evidence and speak to those whom have already been adversely affected by the consumption of these drugs. It doesn't serve anyone except for the greedy drug companies whom obviously don't have any regard for anyone's well-being, considering the evidence. They only care about how they can rape the public health system by promoting something that makes them billions. Stop this assault via drugs on our loved ones, and the robbing of the "public health system" by the drug companies and instead, put the funds currently going into greedy drug companies pockets towards something that is truly effective like programs that give us hope. Ask the real experts what really works rather than being influenced by drug companies lobbyists whom are the last ones who care about our service personnel or anyone else, otherwise these drugs wouldn't be on the market at all. Stop the corruption and this atrocity being perpetrated upon our military and the citizens of this country.
Felicia Stroud	Hello, I am a army veteran suffering from depression. I know from first hand experience that pills don't cure the depression. They only help the physiological systems caused by depression. We need therapy. We need people to listen to us without judging us. Thank You Felicia Stroud
Jeanie Shaterian	Hooray for MindFreedom International! You are my heroes.
Tran Tam An	How much longer is the US Government going to deceive the American public as well as deny rights to our veterans in terms of health care and education? Thank you, Mindfreedom, for the work you are doing! I signed my first name as "Tran" because, legally, my last name is written as my first name, as the Vietnamese wrote their names in Viet Nam and, I have been told, some of them do the same here in the U.S. Tam An
corey wiley	I am 100% against forced psychiatric drugging

<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>I AM A 100% DISABLED US VETERAN. THE VA STARTED ME ON PROZAC FROM 1995-2006. I HARDLY REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME DURING THE ENTIRE TIME. THE END RESULT WAS A HEART ATTACK, A HEART ARRHYTHMIA, BRAIN VESSEL ASCHEMIA, BRAIN DAMAGE, LIVER DAMAGE, AND DAILY SEISURES(WHERE I COULD NOT TRANSLATE MY THOUGHTS TO WORDS), AND ONLY DEAR GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE. WHILE ON PROZAC I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOD, I EVEN FORGOT THE WORDS TO THE LORD'S PRAYER, I WAS ABUSIVE AND TOTALLY UNSPIRITUAL. I QUIT PROZAC COLD TURKEY IN ORDER TO SAVE MY LIFE...THE WITHDRAWAL WAS A TRIP THRU HELL, FOR 5 MONTHS I COULD NOT EAT OR SLEEP, THE THOUGHT OF SUICIDE WAS WITH ME DAILY, THAT WAS IN 2006, TODAY I FEEL 100% BETTER BUT I KNOW THAT I AM STILL RECOVERING AND HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. I HAVE ADOPTED THE TEACHINGS OF DR. ABRAM HOFFER ON ORTHO MOLECULAR TREATMENT WITH NIACIN (B-3), AND MEGA VITAMINS, IT'S WORKING FOR ME AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME. I FEEL LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW, LIFE IS SO MUCH BETTER WITHOUT DRUGS. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY PUTS MEN IN COMBAT ON THESE DRUGS. SSRI'S MAKE YOU VERY AGGRESSIVE WITH DISTORTED, STRANGE AND VIOLENT THOUGHTS, I WAS ALL ALONE AND SUICIDAL AND MY MIND WAS TELLING ME TO END MY LIFE. IN 2008 I WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM BECAUSE OF MY REJECTION TO TAKING MIND ALTERING DRUGS. I WAS OVERHEARD TELLING ANOTHER VETERAN ABOUT THE CHEMICAL IMBALANCE THEORY, I WAS TOLD THAT I WAS INTERFERING WITH OTHER VETERAN'S RECOVERIES, THEN I WAS ESCORTED FROM THE VA PROPERTY BY VA POLICE. WHERE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH? THE TRUTH HAS TO BE TOLD TO MY FELLOW VETERANS, YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM THE TRUTH, THE TRUTH IS THAT THESE DRUGS WILL CAUSE IMPAIRMENT IN JUDGEMENT AND THINKING, THE TRUTH IS THAT THESE DRUGS CAUSE HARM TO THE BRAIN AND DISTROY THE IMAGINATION, THE TRUTH IS I HAVE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT, AND I WON'T DO THAT ANYMORE. I WOULD RATHER DIE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND MOST IMPORTANTLY MY MENTAL FREEDOM. MAY GOD HELP ALL THE VETERANS, THEY DO DESERVE MORE THAN A BAG OF PILLS, THEY DESERVE EVERYTHING "GOOD" THAT AMERICA HAS TO OFFER.</p>
<p>Karen Yazzie</p>	<p>I am a Navy Vet from the VietNam era...it is way past time for Big Brother to quit screwing us around!</p>
<p>Robert Moody</p>	<p>I am a psychologist with a post doctoral MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology and 30+ years experience in public sector work with adults having serious mental illnesses, including PTSD. Drugs should not be the first and never the only treatment strategy. Please consider the best interests of those that have given their all to their country rather than the best interests of the pharaceutical industry.</p>

Terry Zenner	I am a Purple Heart Viet Vet and a Clinical Social Worker. What's going on to keep the militaty less stressed with Rxs is a crime. If the war is that important revive the draft(fat chance), rather than send the same people back for more and more "tours". Still better alternative: every XCongressman and Senator with offspring aged 18-25 must enlist same or resign from Congress.
Anonymous	I am in complete disagreement to the dispensing of drugs to military personnel. Real solutions are needed, not drugs.
Madigan Shive	I call for more options in understanding and treating trauma and emotional distress, and believe that everyone, regardless of income, should have access to health care, alternatives, informed consent in all treatment and real choice.
Robin Plan	I can't imagine coping with PTSD absent a stable and caring treatment relationship. Bring back the human touch!
Mary Elizabeth Van Pelt	I care about the suicide epidemic among our veterans. I support human rights and choice in mental health services. Those in the US Military deserve a voice in the care they receive and access to effective non-drug alternatives.Mary Van PeltAlamosa, CO
Catherine Weigel	I find what is being done to our troops appalling. They're not getting the care and compassion they need and deserve. SSRIs and the other psychotropics are among the most dangerous drugs around and what happens to people who are on them is highly unpredictable. I know, I was on one, Paxil, and it was prescribed to me the same way it basically prescribed to the troops, to help them deal with the bad situation they are in. It ruined my life and two-and-a-half years later I'm still struggling badly with mental health issues I did not have prior to taking Paxil. In the support group I am in we have veterans who are struggling horribly from the withdrawal from these drugs, too. They're having to deal with this as well as whatever horrors they had to deal with in the military. Our soldiers deserve compassionate care, not pills. And they certainly should not be given pills to "prop" them up before going back out in the field. If this policy continues we are going to see more tragedies for these soldiers, their families and others around them.

Samuel Hodnett	<p>I for one can attest to this as people who have TS/SCI clearances they are suppressed with these mind altering drugs. Especially when the truth is not always giving to the American people. Speaking the truth is suppressed in the institutions of the state. Then the people who have been giving the mind-altering drugs, are looked at as less affective leaders. Control of ones mind is the persons choice not the governments. The beleifs of people are also suppressed because, this is depecting the mind of a doctor against the mind of the patient. Order must be resolved at any means neccessary. When a person is not taking there meds, they are considered none compliant, and notes are taking, further discipline action is instilled. Free thinking is limited, especcally when orders have to be giving to kill another person. Killing a person instills trauma on the psyche, which meds suppress the ability to look at your actions from whole state of consciousness. More Expressive Arts therapy need to be instilled with the program. Instead of chemical-therapy, that suppresses functioning levels.</p>
Linda Valentine	<p>I guess drugging everyone is the ultimate goal of psychiatry and pharmaceutical rackets. Babies, women, men, teenagers, elderly, dogs are being drugged every second of everyday. Genocide is here and now the young and old soldiers are having their minds altered by quacks everywhere. It is almost too dangerous to go out as all the shootings taken place can be where you are at anytime. Stop drugging the men/women who serve our country. What criminal minds these psychiatric/pharmaceutical establishments use against humans instead of care, compassion and respect of human life.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I have had depression in my life and I know how it needs to be treated. I'm also not unfamiliar with PTSD. The current administration is terribly misdirected in "leading" our wonderful country. People are dying in Iraq for no reason. Then our service people come home with terrible physical and mental problems which are virtually ignored. What has happened to our values?</p>
Joseph Carson	<p>I know how psychotropic drugs can deaden and kill and destroy romantic and other relationships. Why do this to our fighting men and women? The use of such drugs is epidemic and damaging to our forces, as is our foreign policy in Iraq. Joe</p>
marian merlino	<p>I now live in a small town in Western N.Y. Just recently a 22 year old soldier returned from Afghanistan, took his life at Ft. Drum, during a phone call with his sister. The suicide rate among soldiers is a mental health emergency. It is not enough to address this with pills or a VA suicide hot line. Some REAL help is desperately needed here!</p>
Reilly Pavia	<p>I think the soldiers need some in depth therapeutic counseling, and not just a drug to help dampen their feelings. Thank you for supporting proper care of our returning wounded soldiers.</p>

Grace Jackson	<p>I trained as a military psychiatrist at Walter Reed, Malcolm Grow, and Bethesda Naval hospital between 1997 and 2000. In the spring of 2001 (six months prior to 9/11 and America's invasion of Afghanistan), I tendered the resignation of my Naval commission for reasons of conscience, based upon the unnecessary harmfulness of the standard operating procedure: label and drug. It is sad to observe that this standard operating procedure has not only thrived, but expanded. Space constraints prevent a full discussion of the ethical and practical problems associated with "the drugging of militants" (indeed, there is a long history of nations doing so), but a few comments can be succinctly made in this forum: 1) it is unrealistic to expect any changes in American health care policy which threaten the dominance of the pharmaceutical industry 2) improvements in health care and long-term outcomes for the American soldier will depend upon the soldiers and their families -- how motivated, and how well equipped are they to locate and find assistance from health care providers who are dedicated to science-based, rather than "consensus-based" medicine 3) CPGs: clinical practice guidelines (DoD, Veterans Affairs) are outdated They even ignore (dismiss) the latest Black Box Warnings which appear on the labels of antidepressants, sleep medicines, and neuroleptics 4) TOT: target organ toxicity Soldiers and their families deserve to be educated about the problems associated with the military's favored treatments, especially the SSRIs (Prozac and Prozac-like drugs) and anticonvulsants. Among the problems to be addressed: a) how these drugs ENHANCE the endocrine disturbances associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (e.g., by suppressing growth hormone, by elevating prolactin levels, and by increasing the secretion of vasopressin) b) how these drugs are, themselves, directly toxic to the cells of the brain c) how these drugs induce various reproductive and teratogenic defects There are no easy solutions to the existential problems and torment caused by the execution of any war and the witnessing of its horrors. Nor are there "easy" solutions for the existential trauma induced by the betrayal of a nation (i.e., the betrayal of an entire government and court system which has, to varying degrees, obliterated the protections and guarantees of the U.S. Constitution and treaty obligations under international law). However, one solution remains which is really quite simple: primum non nocere First do NO HARM. I encourage all soldiers and their loved ones to put themselves in the hands of health care professionals who "see" beyond the tyranny of false consensus, and who commit themselves to a form of health care which prioritizes human dignity, an understanding of BASIC SCIENCE, and a non-reductionistic approach to the problems which confront the mind, body, and soul.</p>
Penelope Brindley	I understood this is a petition. I am "signing" it by this statement.

Anonymous	<p>I was attacked domestically as a civilian in the USA, I was force drugged and it caused me a lot of pain and suffering... as it continues to.</p> <p>I feel it is wrong to arrest people without charging them with crimes and then on top of that to use DRUGS like a BEATING STICK or WHIP is not right either.</p> <p>---</p> <p>KIND, healing and soothing caring motions is probably what most people need... nice talk and activities which are ENGAGING in a peaceful manner : ARTWORK, GARDENING, or what have you... PICTURE a system where people can TALK OPENLY without fear of being DRUGGED simply for getting something off their chest. People who come back from WAR ZONES may be afraid to say stuff that they need to say to counselors because of the fear of FORCE DRUGGING.</p>
Peter Relton	<p>I work in the area of mental health and know from personal experience how important it is for people experiencing distress to be listened to and not just be given medication, which isn't nearly as effective as often claimed anyway.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would like to add that all of us need better care than simply psychotropic medicine, which is big business and highly profitable for some, while sometimes quite damaging for others. Those of us struggling with low-incomes, high stress, and other problems need and deserve better comprehensive care -- massage, acupuncture, and other holistic remedies that are often more helpful than psychotropic medication.</p>
Kathie Zatkin	<p>I would prefer that no email listing accompany my "signing" of this petition.Thanks.Kathie Zatkin</p>
Philip Obsharsky	<p>If you really want to win, then pass www.bioelectrichealth.org information along to the troops. If you don't, I, the author will KNOW that you are just selling them out to the vagaries of power that America and the US Military are supposed to defending people against, thus cancel your own purpose, thus rendering yourselves meaningless, thus demanding your own untimely epataphs.</p> <p>But if you don't take the Obscurant path, you will benefit in your own opinion of yourselves and if you ever do see what is written on your headstones, you'll be glad you did what you did while you could.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this document. TYA.</p> <p>Best regards, Philip B. Obsharsky</p>

<p>Timothy Scott</p>	<p>If you think our returning soldiers are having problems now, just wait until they have been on antidepressants or antipsychotics for several years and they begin having problems with irreversible movement disorders (tardive dyskinesia) and akathisia, permanent brain damage (check out the studies), diabetes, and shortened lifespans (again, see the medical literature studies). Please do your own research and do not fall for the marketing ploy of the pharmaceutical industry which does not want the public to know that antidepressants do not perform any better than placebo but carry a high risk of dangerous side effects when used long-term. (Again, check out the medical research or see my book, America Fooled, which analyzes much of the research.)</p>
<p>Jerome Rubin, Ph.D.</p>	<p>In my professional experience of 37 years in practice, prescribed drugs alone are not sufficient to treat anxiety and depression-related illness. It is necessary that military veterans and combat soldiers be offered and encouraged to receive psychotherapy and psychological counseling.</p>
<p>Lauren DeWitt, R.Ph.</p>	<p>It is a well-known fact that psychoactive drugs only mask symptoms and do not help the person to solve the initial or current problem. We must move away from this "drugs as the only help" mentality towards help that allows freedom of choice and returns the person to being a productive member of society.</p>
<p>Dianne Corlett</p>	<p>It is about time we invest in compassion, empathy, and holistic choices in healing for those in mental turmoil. Continually numbing and/or blasting people's delicate psyche with the standard psychotropic cocktail is a dicey and temporary fix. It is the same old standard garbage in/garbage out approach advocated by pharmaceutical companies/allies who stand to benefit the most from all the financial returns AND at the EXPENSE of SOMEONE ELSE'S vulnerable BRAIN. THINK outside the bottle(s).</p>
<p>Mona Hughes</p>	<p>It is bad enough our men are being killed and wounded in a war none of us want, but to allow the drug companies to kill and maim them with unsafe drugs is obscene. It must stop now. Please stop the drug companies.</p>
<p>Hugh Massengill</p>	<p>It is becoming more and more obvious that psych drugs are responsible for a lot of deaths, that when the side effects are listed one should be added "beware that your tendency to attempt suicide will be increased".</p>
<p>Maxine Hayen</p>	<p>It is unconscionable that our Veterans do not receive an array of services and supports to ensure their successful recovery and substantial gainful employment. Psychiatric so-called medications cause more harm than benefits.</p>

abhilash jayachandran	it is very important for the country to think alternative methods than administering tranquilizers to those persons who were saving your independence. soldiers mind and brain should be active with psychological therapies than passive with psychiatry drugs.
Carolyn Scarr	It is widely known that any positive effects of psychotropic drugs can be obtained only in conjunction with good individualized therapy. Drugs alone can be harmful or at best useless.
LS Lanham	It should be a matter of course that each soldier is evaluated for mental problems whether they manifest themselves or not. The military is not taking responsibility for what they have caused.
Val Sanfilippo	itamins B, C, Cal-mag-zinc, Fish oil for true mania-depression.
Anonymous	I've been on most of the psychiatric drugs on available in the U.S. and they are most awful there are better ways to care for someone than to put them on drugs that will MAKE them suicidal or cause serious health complications let this injury of harmful drug abuse to american soldiers and citizens be known and put a stop to this abuse. The psychiatric industry creates illness and injury with their drugs. that is why you are labeled disabled if you are put on these drugs 'the drugs CAUSE disability' alternative support like housing and financial assistance, and community support systems should be embraced
Louis Frydman	Keep on pushing!!
Jane Frydman	Keep on pushing!!
Ashley McNamara	lease offer vets alternatives beyond medication -- particularly therapy -- which is so much more helpful with trauma.
Maria Ostheimer	lease take into consideration the whole person. Our veterans need not only a psychiatric approach, but a psychosocial rehabilitation emphasis. We need to empower them and treat them as whole human beings with real lives. The essential elements of psychosocial rehabilitation are support, caring, generating of options and reclaiming hope! Thank you, Maria Ostheimer Mental Wellness Advocate
Anne Menasche	Let's stop creating more mental illness. Bring the troops home now!
June Marshall	Medication should be improved BEFORE giving it out! All medication has side affects, some worse than others. Before being allowed to market such medication to help people who need it, the drug manufacturers should improve medicine by removing their side affects. In todays technology, this should be able to be done instead of 'Get rid of one evil to get another or more.

Charles McCarthy	Medications alone do not lead to recovery from mental illness.
Karen Creighton	Medications are proven to be only partially effective in mental health care. Talking therapy and support is also needed and should be provided if soldiers are to receive the care they deserve as compensation for risking their lives for their country.
Anonymous	Mental health is much more than handing someone over to the pharmacist. There are 8 million children on psychiatric drugs. Doesn't this alarm anyone? Please don't put our soldiers on drugs!
Marilyn Gill	Mental Health treatments are by and large questionable, at best. Giving soldiers drugs to make them perform in a manner that would be considered unreasonable and superhuman under normal circumstances will lead to nothing but iatrogenic illness and often death. It is not the way to treat people who are exhausted and emotionally traumatized as the suicide rate now indicates.
joseph jimenez	More treatment and processing of inner turmoil is needed and LESS drugs! WWJD?
Anne Julienne	Most of all these veterans need someone who'll listen.
Carter Mehl	Much research has shown that psychotherapeutic treatment of depression is often as effective as drug treatment approaches, has longer lasting effects and has fewer side effects. Our soldiers deserve the best evidenced-based practices, not just the cheapest quick fix.
Cheryl Kilpatrick	My experience with veterans is that, once they are able to overcome the taboo against speaking of their experiences and feelings which is part of military culture, they gain much more from all types of treatment. Thus, I believe it is vital that medication management not be the sole method of treating mental health issues that are a ramification of their service to our country.
Thomas Hughes	My next move is to e-mail this petition to a Veit Nam Veteran Psychiatric Survivor.
Maggie McClure	My son ended his life because of psychiatric drugs

Edie Feiste	<p>Not only is this a big problem in the military, but also in the civilian population. If you really look closely, you will discover that all the shooters at schools, malls, etc. were either taking SSRI psychiatric drugs at the time of the shootings, or had just prior to the shootings gone up or down on dosages. Many civilian suicides have resulted from these drugs also. Many books have been written by knowledgeable persons who warn of the danger in stopping these drugs cold turkey or going up or down on dosages. Most mainstream psychiatrists and physicians completely ignore this information. I know this from experience because my daughter's life has been ruined by these same drugs. She has not yet committed suicide or killed anyone, but she is locked up in jail right now, waiting for a room in a state mental hospital where they will force her to take more drugs...all because she believes she is being raped during the night while she is sleeping and she continues to call the authorities for help. She lives with this continual trauma...then has to suffer the fate of being treated like a criminal. I truly do not see how she can survive this much longer...and there seems to be no real help available. She was sane and had a good income and decent life until she decided to see a psychiatrist 14 years ago because she was "getting depressed over things that were happening at work." Had I known then what I know now, I would have told her to run the other way. But I didn't know that psychiatrists were in reality only legal drug pushers. Her depression was situational and caused by actual events at work that were well documented in a lawsuit filed by the EEOC against Mitsubishi Motors on behalf of over 200 women employees. But now she is disabled with a brain that doesn't function properly from all the psychiatric drugs, and she suffers from severe post-traumatic stress disorder because of all the trauma she has endured as a result of all her forced "psychiatric treatment." I keep wondering what it will take for those in leadership positions to finally wake up to this disgrace. I raised my daughter to believe she could achieve anything she wanted and I know she had great hope for her future, but her American dream was taken away from her at the age of 30 by psychiatry. And I know that more psychiatric drugs will not help her get it back. So instead of being able to enjoy my daughter's companionship during my senior years, I live daily with a heart that is filled with grief over her situation and the suffering it is causing both of us.</p>
Colin Eadie	<p>Orthomolecular medicine, nutrition of the ~50 essential nutrients in balanced proportions for individual needs has yielded the best results for people who are mental ill. Niacin cures schizophrenia, like pellegra it is a B3 deficiency disease linked to NAD and overall nutrition. Placebo effect aside, pyschiatric drugs never worked well.</p>
Doyle Mills	<p>Our brave soldiers need REAL care, not fraudulent psychiatric "solutions" which have never proven to help anyone in the long run. Pills are for profit, not for people.</p>
Kathleen Roby	<p>Our family has been deeply effected by Military service related stress & disability, suicide, and, PTSD. I would not be a religious person if I ignore our veterans, troops, & their families!!!</p>

Gloria Gervais	Our military personnel can be under unbelievable strain performing their duties. When they come into trouble mentally, they deserve to be treated with compassion, and to be in charge of their recovery. Each individual needs to be the decision maker in his/her own recovery plan. It's time we stopped drugging military personnel as a simple or quick answer and started moving them away from the things or people that bring them stress. They've given all they can now. It's time to give them a safe space and rest to allow the natural healing process to begin.
Barbara Keiser	Our soldiers deserve better than a bag of pills! Barbara
Patricia Bernstein	Our soldiers deserve better than a bag of pills. Those who serve in the U.S. military deserve a real voice in the care they receive, and access to effective, non-drug alternatives.
Michelle Ruggio	Our soldiers deserve the BEST medical care available. They deserve the same care that our elected officials receive, no less than the President himself! They should have 0 interest loans and 0 interest mortgages/credit cards while they serve and they and their families should have full college scholarships. Counseling should be for the effects of war and not for the problems at home..they shouldn't HAVE any problems to come home to and our elected officials can see to that if they would only try.
Rita Jungman	Our soldiers offer their lives. We need to offer them better than a handful of pills. They deserve a choice, and they need BETTER choices! Rita Jungman, Psychiatric nurse practitioner.....RN/MSN,ARNP
Ken Collins	Our troops need emotional support not drugs to mask their emotions. The long term effects of these drugs on our troupes will cause more harm than - good. Society will pay for these long term effects and the drug companies will laugh all the way to the bank. End the wars in Iraq and Aphanestan now and bring our troops home - NOW!
Anthony Lorito	Over drugging people is just completely wrong to do to anyone, but especuially to our soliders. They, their families, etc. are going through enough as it is. They do not need any more problems put upon them.
Lian Vangren	Over my lifetime, I have had numerous doctors prescribe many different pyschiatric drugs. None of them worked for me. A program of non-drug alternatives need to be available for the military.

Anonymous	<p>People working in the military are risking their lives to serve their country; their lives should not be risked further with the prescribing of psychiatric drugs. Anybody experiencing emotional distress should be given practical support to help them get through it - not drugs which are likely to exacerbate their difficulties further. There are too many vested interests in the prescribing of these drugs and this issue needs to be addressed.</p>
judy schreiber	<p>Pills do not solve problems; people do. Please do not let our military men and women be treated with pills that only dull the problem but do not solve it- these are brave young men and women who face real dangers and are having real experiences that leave their mark on them - they need support</p>
Patricia Chandler	<p>Please consider this important issue. It is hurting our veterans. If someone already has Acute PTSD and they receive medications to help them go out and be exposed to more trauma, it isn't helping them. Read the recent New Yorker article about the effects of multiple tours on our servicepeople.</p>
Martin Jerchow	<p>Please do not drug your soldiers with neuroleptic drugs. They will harm them more than they will help them! Martin Jerchow Survivor of Psychiatry from Germany</p>
rick hill	<p>please ensure that our soldiers are provided options for their mental health. most psychiatric drugs have many damaging mental and physical side-effects that are well documented. so please seek to provide our troops with alternatives to long-term use of these drugs. -r.s. hill rochester, ny</p>
fancher larson	<p>Please forward this information with the petition. Re: Adverse Effects of serotonin uptake inhibitors (SSRI) such as Zoloft, Prozac, that are being prescribed to soldiers in Iraq. Clinical Worsening and Suicide Risk: Anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, aggressiveness, impulsivity, akathisia (psychomotor restlessness), hypomania, mania, other unusual changes in behavior, worsening of depression, and suicidal ideation.” Potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome may occur in treatment with SNRIs and SSRIs, including Zoloft..... symptoms may include mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular aberrations (e.g., hyperreflexia, incoordination) and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). SSRIs including Zoloft, may increase the risk of bleeding events. A use of aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, warfarin, may add to this.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please help to stop mind control transmitted to gangs to commit crimes and harassment and be used as scapegoats.</p>
Peter Straus	<p>Please help. Thank you.</p>

Mary Ann Brummer	Please note and address the plight of those who are overly medicated on psychiatric drugs and with no safe way of reducing or getting off the medications.
Joni Gallo	Please offer other alternatives besides psychiatric drugs to those in the military. They deserve better.
Johanna Ryan	Please show us Pfizer, Lilly and Abbott do not pull your strings!
Tara Mozelle	Please stop drugging America !
Stephen Cardile	Please take this very seriously.
Amy Storbakken	<p>Prozac has been linked to increased violence. Antidepressants can cause mania. Antidepressants can cause sexual impotence. There are nutritional alternatives to psychiatric drugs which are healthier and less expensive to take. Please explore alternatives because psychiatric drugs can be a really bad trap to get into. Essentially doctors who know nothing about the individuals they are treating have dictatorial type control over what their patients end up getting. Frankly, the VA has a poor record for caring for its patients as it is, without throwing a bunch of mood altering drugs on top of everything else. Please encourage the VA to research alternative therapies for depression, PTSD, etc. because they do work, are healthier and cheaper, and give vets the respect and control over their own lives that they deserve! Thank you for your help in this matter.</p> <p>I was forced to take prescription psychiatric drugs for 11 years but I have been free of them for almost 6 years without incident, with the help of a good diet, good self help books, and nutritional supplements. I feel alive again after 11 years in a chemical prison. This is a big human rights and human freedom issue.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amy Storbakken</p>
Anonymous	Psychiatric drugs are harming people at an alarming rate. To actually give a country's soldiers these drugs undermines the security of the United States. Mr. Obama knows full well the dangers of prescribing these drugs.
angela bischoff	Psychiatric drugs can be very damaging to a large percentage of users, and best case scenerio they merely treat symptoms. Veterans deserve more comprehensive care.
Sandra Breakspeare	Psychiatric drugs do more damage than good and if these soldiers are facing traumatic events and horrors on a daily basis they need alternative help and therapies to cope and come to terms with it all. In many instances Psychiatric drugs cause suicidal tendencies and thoughts and are not the answer.
Fred Tenzer	Psychiatric drugs do not address people's real issues!

Loren Reichman	Psychiatric drugs in the age group of most soldiers are extremely risky in terms of causing suicidal (and sometimes homicidal) ideations. They tend to cause more problems than they solve, and they do not work long-term, postponing other, safer therapy, which means costs are ultimately increased.No soldier or anyone else should be urged to take a medication that can cause suicidal ideations (while taking the medication or after discontinuing it; both can occur with psychiatric medications) without exploring other, safer treatments.Psychiatric medications for many people, especially younger adults, can be more dangerous than street drugs, hard as it is to believe. We are becoming more and more aware of this.Our soldiers have been through enough; they don't deserve this. Neither do the families of those who kill themselves.
Mary Hintz	Psychiatric drugs seem to have been the cause of the problems I was considered to be taking them for. During the years I took them I felt bad, did not work or have a social life outside my home. After getting weaned off gradually I determined that what they told me was a return of symptoms or chemical imbalance was actually withdrawal problems. I have been off since December of 1993 and now have a part time job as well as holding offices in several community organizations. Prior to being put on such drugs I was in college where I was considered to be an honor student. The drugs caused me to lack energy and the ability to concentrate and drop out of graduate school. Like I heard on a TV program about them "they can cause more problems than they solve. My bosses in the FDA in 1963 believed such drugs should only be used for serious cases. The doctors who prescribe them look at it from the point of view that to protect themselves they have to medicate everyone who might have a problem. They do not own up to the fact that they cannot tell who needs drugs and who does not. They put on airs like they have more ability than they really do to diagnose who has a problem and who does not.
Anonymous	Psychiatric drugs, in particular the antidepressants SSRI/SNRIs, can cause suicide. Give these people alternate choices!
Anonymous	Psychiatry is one great pseudo science. We need to support these soldiers with empathy. Drugs do not cure. Love does
Anonymous	Psychotropic drugs have helped me.....but not by themselves without a good counselor and a place to meaningfully participate in society. Years ago I was so drugged on psychotropic drugs that I would sleep to noon everyday. What a waste of life. Now I take a minimal amount and am up at 6:00 am.
Daniel Wasserman, Ph.D.	Research has amply shown that psychotherapy, sometimes in common with medication, is the most helpful intervention with many psychological disorders.
Joseph Dunsay	Researchers are making great strides in non-drug treatments. It is unconscionable to risk the health of soldiers with drugs after they have already risked so much for us. We owe them reliable, drug free treatments.

Jean Jerardi	Servicemen need to be offered an opportunity to talk about what is bothering them.
Janet Amegatcher	Simply outrageous and unacceptable for fello human beings to be treated in such a manner. US Soldiers deserve better than the treatment they are being subjected to. Away with the psychiatric drugs being given to the Soldiers and address the problems they encounter squarely!
Jeanne Smith	Soldiers have historically been the guinea pigs for the chemical engineering corporations. In WWII they were given amphetamines for "endurance." SSRI's are simply the new amphetamine. It is simply horrifying that the hidden enemy for soldiers at home is Big Pharma and it's pressure to solve emtional and social problems with an object, a chemical, rather than human interaction.
Cynthia Fisher	Soldiers need to have alternatives to meet their mental and physical health needs, besiides being drugged with medication that often has worse side effects than the stress related illnesses!
Kate Waterbury	SSRI's can be dangerous when given without monitoring. When a soldier is recognized (diagnosed) as depressed and in need of treatment, he or she must become part of a group of supportive peers and professionals who will use other techniques than medication (probably along with medication). The first week is crucial, each week for a month must be monitored, and continued monitoring, contact with professionals, is needed. Medication should not be given without caring psychotherapy and personal support.
Anonymous	Stop drugging our soldiers. Stop drugging our Mothers. Stop drugging our unborn infants. Stop drugging our children. Stop drugging our people. PERIOD. (Drugs destroy dreams.)Stop drugging me!
Duane Sherry	Stop drugging soldiers!
Todd Gibson	SYCHIATRY'S #1 RULE - MAKE MONEY. DRUG PEOPLE WITH POISONOUS PILLS THAT MAKE THEM WORSE SO YOU CAN DRUG THEM MORE AND KEEP MAKING MONEY. PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS KILLED MY COUSIN. SHE WAS 12.
Tom Wilson	Thank goodness "they" recognize taking ones own life is a bad thing, but we should be asking for more for our veterans. A full range of services that promote recovery and productivity not just staying alive. For that pharmaceutical intervention is the wrong road for many. Stop drugging and start treating!
Jude Grant	Thank you Freedom Center, from the grateful recovering people in Oakland.

Lydia Nikuls	Thanks for all your work. Hope Obama can help. Cheers.
Maurice Frank	The court change in 159 countries has applied to the US and been known to its government since 1999.
Rick Snook	The focus in this issue should be on the prevention and active treatment of trauma- something for which psychiatric drugs have no reliable efficacy.
Edward Eichel	The government should not be implicated in drug trafficking.
Anonymous	The instances cited here are not only in reference to the military. As the mother of a 23 year old daughter who has needed counseling and alternative care instead of being put in the state hospital (due to abuse she witnessed and experienced) I am outraged that pharmaceutical lobotomies are the only course of action....In fact it seems that it is really the drug companies and their stock holders who are benefitting. Not unlike all other FOR PROFIT actions in the bush/cheney administration! Mental Health needs to be funded and the drug companies need to be more heavily regulated!!!!
kathy Stahlman	The International Association of Scientologists proved in England that Ritalin was a class 4 cocaine like substance and guess what Is is now illegal for a doctor to prescribe Ritalin to children.I donated money for that and I do want to get the abuse of Psychiatric drugs out of our military. Write me and let me know how I can help . I have already written to Barack Obama about this issue.
Elizabeth O'Nan	The lack of oversight and corruption within the FDA has put every American at risk for injury. To allow this treasonous drug culture to take advantage of our military is unspeakable. Please do more to help our service people besides giving them dangerous meds.
Anonymous	The military is completely on the wrong track in prescribing psychiatric drugs to soldiers suffering effects of the war. Soldiers need compassionate care, not drugs!
Ellen Rifkin	The research is very clear that psychotropic drugs alone are significantly less effective than in combination with therapy/counseling. Please honor our soldiers by providing the best, not the least, treatment available.
Stephen McGee	The soldiers who put their lives on the line to stop insane dictators should have real solutions given to them. Psychaitric medication has never been proven effective. The drug companies have never shown the full truth about their products and have perverted the system that was put in place to protect the consumers of the United States which include our brave military men and women. " Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health" has an effective technology that would give results that would save our courageous ladies and gentlemen of the military. Please do what is right and end the poisoning of our soldiers.

Terry Bearden	The solutions must begin and end with the knowledge and acceptance that the drugs being prescribed in fact can cause a worsening of symptoms and aggressive/homicidal/suicidal acts. Drugs are not the answer.
Sue Clark-Wittenberg	The US Military deserves to have alternatives to psychiatric drugs. Psychiatric drugs can be harmful. See breggin.com for more info
Jana Spalding	The vet-to-vet peer support program is a start, but it is small and not properly funded. Peer support has been proven to be of great assistance to persons with a variety of disorders and problems. The military must de-stigmatize mental and emotional distress and allow open dialog among all staff, soldiers, active, reserve, injured, retired. Silence kills.
LeRoy Spaniol	The whole person needs to be treated.
Rozz Lieght	There are many many other alternatives to treating veterans with PTSD. Please investigate. The most effective and least expensive treatments are being now provided for free or low cost in many states and that is Community Style Acupuncture that uses the NADA protocol. Stop thinking that only drugs are the answer, there are many other possibilities.
lynn munroe	there are much more effective treatments..just taking psych med's is a lazy way out..there are many therapies that should be incorporated..a talk group with other vet's would be awesome because they can relate. how can we expect them to come home & live 'normal' lives after their experiences over there.
Travis Elliot	There are other options! Please visit www.returningveterans.org
Sylvia Dodd	There are people who are misdiagnosed due to bad experiences they have. People do recover. You don't assume things about people just because of the profession you are in or practice. You don't use the laws of this land to just protect those who have influence and money, and then use it to force your ways upon others. If family and friends are involved trying to convince these psychiatrist that those they think they know, are having these type of problems, these professionals should not go by their opinion alone. It seems convenient to just assume that someone else has a problem and then hand them over to someone else for treatment they do not want nor need. The medical profession needs to get back to using proper nutrition, and other things that matter to help people. People should have options and choices. The mental health system has their own set of rules that they think have to do with law. Yet they break the law to practice their own type of knowledge on others. Ignoring the needs of others just to get your paycheck and pay your bills is apathetic and wrong. I realize that these people who practice what they do are not perfect, but that doesn't mean that they should be doing what they do. People are different, and have different strengths and weaknesses. That doesn't mean they are mentally deficient. If others don't want to be treated this way; what makes them think that

	anyone else does?
ABDUL MABOOD	There is no space for forced medication for positive mental health. It is sheer violation of rights of individual. We condemn any forced medication in any form to any human being anywhere in the world.
Howard Prendergast	These drugs actually, reduce a person's ability to think, which is potentially dangerous to any organization, family or country.
BOB FIDDAMAN	These poor men have been through enough. SSRi treatment will add another hell. They deserve better!
Anonymous	These veterans as well as active duty military deserve all possible supports to promote and sustain their mental stability. Counseling and psychotherapy are vital components to mental health recovery. These men and women deserve more than to merely be handed some prescriptions. Please support access to all available modes of healing for these troops and veterans, for as long as they require them.
Anonymous	they deserve much more
Dan Taylor	This action of giving psychiatric drugs to US Soldiers is inhuman, callous, flagrant violation of their human rights and must be condemned by all right thinking persons. These soldiers are human beings and must be treated as such. They are not animals! It is a shame to the powers that be!
Louise Bouta	This is a tragedy. It is replicated every day among civilian populations we know and we can't do anything about it.
Meg Palan	This is TRAGIC !!
Paul Mancini	This one size fits all approach has got to stop!!!!!!
Don Whitmore	Though not an American (I have family in the States) I know well the cost of going to war for these soldiers. To then degrade them with psychotropic drugs is appalling! They deserve real care! They do not need to be Psychiatric & Big Pharma's fodder so they can line their pockets.

Anonymous	<p>to:Senators Obama and McCain: Psychiatry is a psuedo science. And they are making Billions of \$\$\$\$ doing it. They VOTE in their new "Mental Illnesses" names and #s and their DSM "Billing Bible" is getting fatter. The psychiatrists invent the "disease" and big pharma creates the drugs for these fraudelent "diseases" Drugs are poisons. Psychiatry kills. Please take responsibility, look and understand what is happening inside the military. Allowing it to continue is to allow great harm to continue.. The drugging and psychiatry's "treatments" must be STOPPED.</p>
Anonymous	Trauma as a result of war needs state funded psychological and social support.
Mary Saunders	Unstuck, a book that counsels that everything else be tried before subjecting people to the possible side effects of drugs, is a book medial assistants could be asked to read and use. Doing so could save lives and money.
Colin Eadie	Vitamins, natural food, clean water and love heal people.
Margaret Bohrman	We are human beings, and so much more than our symptoms or diagnosis. Please treat us with dignity and humanity.
Anonymous	We need to stop the practice of psychiatric drugging as our only answer to emotional pain. Those in our military, or all our citizens, deserve safer and more effective, alternatives.
Brendan Mulchrone	<p>What's required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand on the plain truth about the mind altering/brain damaging effects of psychiatric drugs. 2. Stand taller than the drugs manufacturers and end this abuse of U.S. military veterans.
Harry Corsover	When drug company studies are carefully scrutinized, in many cases these drugs are no more (and sometimes less) effective than placebos. Psychotherapy has been shown to be as or more effective (alone or in combination with pharmacotherapy) than medications alone, and our men and women in the military deserve and need access to it.
Gilbert Shepard	<p>When people suffer and pills are given as the solution what does this say about how we care about someone? It says we don't - treat them like animals and put them away. Soldiers and vets need counseling, therapy, to heal what war does and to heal what caused them to be so vulnerable in the first place - usually trauma in childhood.</p> <p>Gilbert Shepard</p>
Kim Cormack	<p>While medication can be an important part of effective treatment, informed consent and supportive psychotherapy and/or peer support are equally important, if not more so. Give your sons and daughters a chance to live the same kind of life they are fighting to preserve for others.</p> <p>Kimberley Cormack MA Counselling Psychology</p>

Abigail Ofori	Why give the Soldiers these psychiatric drugs? These are simply unacceptable. They are being sent to their graves gradually by these drugs. The US Government must act swiftly to curb these atrocities! America is a land of peace and Justice and so must it be always!
Lartey Addico	Why must such beastly acts be perpetrated against US Soldiers? We need to remember that God created man in His own image and so let's cherish and dignify human lives. I expect either Barack or McCain to put an immediate stop to these human rights infractions
Bob Bennett	With all the advances being made in Vibrational Medicine, it is time to end drug dependency in medicine. Go to www.approach2balance.org for more info....or read the book, Vibrational Medicine by Richard Gerber M.D.
Denise Conrad	Wrong War! Wrong treatment!
Anonymous	You might want to look at depleted uranium, as well as all the toxins they are exposed to and then look at army brats birth rate of Autism is now 1 in 67.
Margaret Parry	Your soldiers deserve better than a bag of pills