Dear Friends,

There are so many reasons that Joe Biden needs to be our next president, but his position on the opioid crisis is one that speaks most strongly to me.

Addiction is far too critical an issue to leave it to catch phrases or to untested, unvalidated efforts.

In 2018, more than 47,000 Americans died of opioid overdose. The numbers are staggering. To ignore the impact that has on our country is unconscionable.

Fighting addiction isn’t for sissies. Very few people can fight it on their own. It’s not easy to “get over it” or “just say no.” In reality the disease of addiction is preventable and treatable. But it takes a broad-brush approach.

And unlike many abused drugs, opioids originated legally via pharmaceutical companies. Their treatment for pain was a relief to millions.

However, once it became obvious that people were using them for recreational purposes, the drug companies did little to change their distribution. In fact, some even shipped millions of pills to vendors willingly selling illegally.

America cannot let the deaths and ruined lives continue due to inaction and to efforts that are not science-based and do not work.

Joe Biden’s platform presents viable, workable options, such as:

* holding large pharmaceutical companies and their executives accountable,
* making prevention, treatment, mental health and recovery services available to all,
* stopping the over-prescribing of opioids while improving access to pain management,
* reforming the criminal justice system so that no one is incarcerated for drug use/abuse alone,
* stemming the flow of illegal drugs such as fentanyl and heroin into the United States, especially from China and Mexico.

Joe Biden gets it. He understands there are no easy solutions. He understands that prevention works and treatment saves. He also understands that we can no longer ignore the needs of so many.

Vote blue,

Ardis Glace