

Congressman Hal Rogers
One-Minute: Keep Crushable Pills Off the Market
December 18, 2012

Mister Speaker, while the impending fiscal cliff is on our minds, I rise to alert my colleagues to another end-of-year deadline with potentially deadly consequences. If the FDA fails to act, on January 1, our streets could be flooded with cheap, crushable prescription painkillers ripe for abuse and misuse.

After OxyContin came on the market fifteen years ago, a wave of overdose deaths devastated entire towns in my region of Appalachian Kentucky before spreading like wildfire to big cities and suburban communities across the country. By crushing these pain pills, abusers can experience a euphoric – but oftentimes deadly – high.

But today, the FDA has an opportunity keep these crushable pills out of our children's reach. A number of prescription medicines already on the market use tamper-resistant technologies that can cut back on abuse. No generic pill should come to market without these life-saving features.

The FDA must take the necessary steps to keep us from careening off the pain pill cliff. Thank you and I yield back.