

MAX ROSE

11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3371

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE:  
265 NEW DORP LANE, SECOND FLOOR  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306  
TELEPHONE: (718) 667-3313

BROOKLYN OFFICE:  
8203 3RD AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11209  
TELEPHONE: (718) 306-5500

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3211

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND  
SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM,  
CHAIRMAN  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE  
AND RECOVERY  
COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

August 29, 2020

Daniel Weiss, CEO  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

Dear Mr. Weiss,

As the U.S continues to endure the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in our normal way of life have sparked a rise in opioid-related abuses and relapses throughout the country. As you reopen today and as we approach Overdose Awareness Day this Monday, I write to respectfully ask for your institution to remove the Sackler family name from its halls. As one of New York's leading museums, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the MET), can help raise awareness about the dangers of substance use and provide solace for the surviving families of those lost to this terrible epidemic.

Since its creation in 1996, Oxycodone has indisputably contributed to an epidemic that has shattered so many American lives. The Sackler family led a disinformation campaign about the addictive qualities of this pill. The pill was subsequently funneled into our streets, our doctors' offices, and our pharmacies. Purdue Pharmaceuticals created a franchise, tasking physicians to routinely write prescriptions for this drug. By 2017, of the 191 million prescriptions distributed, 29% of those patients reportedly misused opioids manufactured by Big Pharma. As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses, so has the number of opioid abuses and deaths.

To this day, more than 130 people daily lose their lives from the complications of opioid abuse. This statistic is intrinsically linked to the criminal enterprise that the Sackler family led. This family profited from the sickness and deaths of our children, friends and family. Opioid abuse is an ongoing problem, particularly for constituents in my district. To hold in reverence a family that had to pay more than \$10.7 billion in settlements for the damages they've caused is a slap in the face for the surviving families of those tragically lost.

As the MET reopens its doors to New Yorkers and families across the country, we cannot ignore the harm that the Sackler family has invoked on the men and women of our city. I denounce the display of this family's name in any public space. We should not be honoring this family; they should be defamed for the pain they've caused. By allowing the Sackler name to remain visible for all to see, we validate the history of fraudulent behavior by this massive franchise. I ask that you strongly consider this change. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'max', followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Max Rose  
Member of Congress