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**PREPARED STATEMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL MAURA
HEALEY IN SUPPORT OF THE SACKLER ACT
Before the
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JUNE 8, 2021**

Chairwoman Maloney, Representative Comer, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this important hearing. I am grateful for the chance to testify about a crisis that matters so much to families in Massachusetts and in every state.

I am here because of those families. From the day I became Attorney General, I have heard story after story of people's lives torn apart by opioids. Of people who spent years overcoming substance use disorder; of people who did not make it; and of people who lost the ones they love.

Over and over, the people closest to this crisis have said what must be done. They want a commitment to treatment and prevention; they want the whole truth exposed; and they want the perpetrators to be held accountable.

That's why my team investigated the Sackler family members who controlled Purdue Pharma; that's why Massachusetts was the first state to sue the Sacklers; and that's why I rejected the Sacklers' attempts to conceal their misconduct, avoid accountability, and walk away billionaires.

It's why I am working with law enforcement officers across the nation, including my friend, Attorney General Wasden of Idaho, to deliver the compensation, transparency, and accountability the public deserves.

As a prosecutor, I can tell you that, in every case, a just resolution is based on the facts. The facts guide my work on this case, and they can inform the work of this Committee as well.

So what do we know?

We know that, from the beginning, the approval of OxyContin was tainted with criminal intent. Those are the exact words of DOJ's career prosecutors: criminal intent. Purdue got OxyContin approved by corrupting the FDA review.

We know that, as soon as OxyContin was launched, the Sacklers directed Purdue to mislead doctors about it. Purdue was convicted of a felony because its executives decided to exploit a misconception that OxyContin was much weaker than it is. Purdue tried to keep secret who those executives were. But we know that Richard Sackler personally approved that crime.

We know that the Sacklers knew their drugs were killing people. When Richard Sackler read a report of 59 deaths in one state, he wrote: "This is not too bad. It could have been far worse."

We know that the Sacklers decided to blame and stigmatize the people who became addicted to their drugs. Richard wrote: "We must hammer on the abusers in every way possible. They are the culprits and the problem. They are reckless criminals."

We know that the Sacklers micromanaged Purdue. Richard was so involved in pushing Purdue's opioids that staff wrote emails begging for him to back off.

We know that the Sacklers met face to face with McKinsey and approved an illegal campaign to turbocharge OxyContin sales as the opioid crisis raged.

We know that the Sacklers' illegal conduct caused people to suffer and die. When we sued the Sacklers, we traced death certificates to find hundreds of Purdue patients killed by overdoses in Massachusetts. Now, evidence from hundreds of thousands of medical records proves we were right. Purdue injured and killed so many people that it will be remembered as one of the worst corporations in history.

We know that the Sacklers were driven by greed. David Sackler wrote: "We're rich? For how long? Until which suits get through to the family?" So the Sacklers took billions of dollars from Purdue and then put the company into bankruptcy.

We know that the Sacklers took so much money that Purdue has little left to pay for the damage they caused. Under Purdue's and the Sacklers' bankruptcy plan, all the states, cities, and counties in the nation will receive only \$1.3 billion over the next five years. Far too little to address the urgent need. Meanwhile, the Sacklers are sitting on a fortune of \$11 billion.

And we know that the Sacklers are still hiding the truth. Last year, we questioned Richard and fifteen other key witnesses under oath. But they want to keep that testimony secret until they get away with it. That's wrong. The public deserves to know what the Sacklers did.

I want to conclude by thanking every member of this Committee. Your work can be a turning point towards justice.

I applaud Chairwoman Maloney and Representative DeSaulnier for introducing the SACKLER Act. We need common sense legislation to prevent billionaires from abusing the bankruptcy code to avoid accountability.

I hope every member of this Committee will work together to see these important reforms enacted into law.