

News Release



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Southcentral Foundation Joins Lawsuit Against Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Southcentral Foundation joined several Alaska Native health organizations in filing a RICO racketeering lawsuit in federal district court in Anchorage against Purdue Pharma, Endo Pharmaceuticals, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, Teva, Allergan, Watson Pharmaceuticals, Actavis, Insys, Mallinckrodt, McKesson, Health Mart Systems, AmerisourceBergen, Walgreen Co., the Kroger Co., Albertson’s, CVS, and related entities alleged to be responsible for the opioid epidemic across the United States and among Alaska Native communities.

The complaint alleges the companies engaged in a scheme of false and deceptive marketing relating to prescription opioid drugs to drastically expand the market for such drugs and their own market share, convincing patients, hospitals, and physicians that opioids were safe for long-term use, despite significant evidence indicating the drugs are relatively ineffective in treating chronic pain, as well as being highly addictive. The complaint also alleges the companies engaged in a widespread supply chain scheme that reaped enormous financial rewards by refusing to monitor and restrict the improper distribution of these addictive, and potentially lethal drugs.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Southcentral Foundation, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Chugachmiut, Inc., Copper River Native Association, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, seeks damages that include actual damages based on the plaintiffs’ health care and medical care costs, and other costs associated to addressing the opioid epidemic.

About Southcentral Foundation

Southcentral Foundation is an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization. Managing more than 80 health care programs and services, SCF serves 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough and 55 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit.

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