Voices for Non-Opioid Choices ("Voices") is a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to preventing opioid addiction by increasing patient access to non-opioid therapies and approaches. Voices convenes leaders from patient, provider, industry, public health and other organizations to collaborate with federal policymakers on needed policy solutions to prevent opioid abuse, misuse, and addiction. Acute pain patients, including those experiencing surgery-related pain, often receive powerful medications to manage their pain. The surgical setting, in particular, has become a potential path to long-term opioid use in America. Consider:

- 3.75 million or 9.2% of patients go on to long-term opioid use after a low-risk surgery (e.g. inguinal hernia repair, knee arthroscopy); 1
- On average, patients receive 80 opioid pills each to manage their pain, whether they need them or not; 2
- Of the 9.7 million people who misused pain relievers in 2019, 37.5% received the pills from a health care provider, and 50% obtained them from a friend; 3 and
- Nearly 80 percent of heroin users began by abusing prescription pain medications. 4

Fortunately, this dangerous cycle of abuse is entirely preventable. We cannot afford to wait any longer as, just last year, 90,000 Americans died from a drug overdose. The time for action is now.
MEMBERS WHO SERVE
VETERANS