

Statement of Plaintiffs' Executive Committee

The below statement is on behalf of National Prescription Opiate Litigation MDL Plaintiffs' Executive Committee co-leads Jayne Conroy of Simmons Hanly Conroy; Paul T. Farrell Jr. of Farrell & Fuller Law LLC; and Joe Rice of Motley Rice LLC.

"This \$1.2 billion agreement-in-principle is another step forward in holding each company that played a role in the opioid epidemic accountable and ensuring hard-hit communities are provided with much-needed resources. The agreement with Kroger, which is subject to final documentation expected to be completed within 30 days, is the first involving one of the smaller, regional supermarket pharmacies that still played a significant part in the opioid crisis. With many cases against regional pharmacy defendants still pending, we will continue to aggressively litigate these remaining cases.

"We encourage all eligible states and subdivisions to join us in this agreement to expedite the process of providing these life-saving resources where they are needed most. While the efforts of the law firms appointed five years ago to the opioid MDL leadership have thus far obtained over \$51 billion for communities nationwide, our work is far from finished. Alongside community leaders, first responders, and others on the front lines of this crisis, we will continue to work to hold all those responsible for this epidemic fully accountable and obtain some measure of justice for its catastrophic effects."

Additional background: Dependent on participation by the 33 eligible states and the District of Columbia, the agreement-in-principle with Kroger totaling \$1.2 billion will be paid out over eleven years after its effective date, with the first payment in December 2023.