



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

December 24, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Whitehouse:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated October 17, 2013, regarding the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) cooperation with the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) drug shortages review (GAO engagement code 291064). Be assured that the Department of Justice (the Department) worked diligently with DEA and GAO to reach agreements that allow GAO access to the information requested while protecting sensitive information contained in the relevant databases.

As stated in your letter, DEA staff identified the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) and the Year-End Reports System (Quota Management System, or QMS/YERS) as databases containing information that may be relevant to GAO's review. Through a cooperative effort between the agencies, the Department and GAO mutually agreed to terms under which GAO can access both ARCOS and QMS/YERS information. DEA has provided ARCOS information to GAO already and is in the process of providing the QMS/YERS information to GAO currently. The Department continues to work cooperatively with GAO on this review.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Kadzik".

Peter J. Kadzik
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General