

Am

To: Judiciary Committee
From: Jack Rea, Jr., A.T.C. *Jack Rea, Jr.*
Re: House Bill #855 Anabolic Steroids
Date: July 10, 1989

The report I have prepared contains actual facts on the harm of ANABOLIC STEROIDS. The information was provided by James C. Vailos, M.D. of Georgetown University and a football player at the University of South Carolina.

Anabolic steroids are chemical androgenic derivatives of testosterone. Testosterone is the most potent androgenic hormone produced by a male's testes.

Unfortunately, anabolic steroids are being used by people who want bigger, stronger muscles, and these drugs are obtained without a prescription from a medical professional.

What happens when an adult uses steroids? They have anxiety attacks, cannot sleep properly, have body spasms, contemplate suicide, put blame on others for their mistakes, and are always looking to start a fight.

Where does this start? Sometimes it begins with parents who want their child to be better than the rest and get an athletic scholarship. Some coaches want to win at any cost. Example: In 1983 a naive male reported to Columbia, South Carolina for football practice at which time he found out all the information he had received was false. He was "red shirted" for one year to get bigger and faster. He was asked if he wanted to take "juice" so he could beef up and fight back.

What are the side effects? Cancer, liver damage, heart disease, sex problems (testicles begin to shrink), severe cases of acne on the back, loss of hair, high blood pressure, pink and puffy skin, swollen face and neck, colitis and bleeding rectally, walking pneumonia, bronchitis, roaring in ears which probably will never leave.

Where are these steroids found so easily? The majority are found at body builders and power lifters gyms. Some pay as high as \$10,000, others \$800, enough for 10 injections over an 8-week period.

Often when a parent witnesses these conditions their reactions are: Don't worry, you're just tired and worn out. They must recognize these warning signs.

I, Jack Rea, Jr. support Representative Leo Trich on House Bill #855.

JR:mr