

**Rep. Frank Dermody
March 8, 1999
Judiciary Hearing
on Gamma Hydroxybutrate Acid -- GHB**

Liquid E, Liquid X, Gamma-OH

These are some of the names given to Gamma Hydroxybutrate Acid, or GHB. The drug is also known as the date rape drug because it is well known for the role it plays in violent crimes against women. Dispensed in small liquid doses, GHB is difficult to detect with the senses and can easily render users unconscious.

It has been marketed as a steroid alternative for body building and it has gained favor as a recreational drug because of its intoxicating effects.

It is important to note that the United States Food and Drug Administration has not regulated GHB.

In lieu of federal regulation, many states have begun to regulate it. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, 18 states have listed GHB as a controlled substance and three have criminalized it.

Most of the states who have regulated GHB have done so through statutes; only two have done so through regulations.

Regulating the drug is important. It will determine how enforcement agencies and prosecutors should respond to possession, use and selling of the drug.

I found other Web sites that told people where to buy the drug, how to use it and how it can affect you. I even found several companies who sell the drug over the Internet. Now, those companies did say they couldn't ship to states that have restricted the drug, but they also said that their mailing lists were confidential and their orders were shipped in a plain sealed carton.

It's time to put a stop to the abuse of this deadly drug, but first we must regulate it. Thank you.