



Testimony to:

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing on H.B. 111 and H.B. 183
Re: GHB**

**by Attorney General Mike Fisher
Monday, March 8, 1999**

**PA House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing on H.B. 111 (Dermody) and H.B. 183 (Benninghoff)
Re: Scheduling of GHB**

Chairman Gannon, distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee thank you for inviting me to testify on an issue of vital importance to the people of Pennsylvania.

I commend Representative Benninghoff for introducing legislation to control GHB, a dangerous drug that has exploded onto the scene in Pennsylvania and across the country. Because GHB is not illegal under Pennsylvania law, narcotics agents are not allowed to stop this deadly drug from getting into the wrong hands. Although GHB has been criminalized in twenty-two (22) states, Pennsylvanians are still unprotected. That is why I strongly recommend to this Committee that it place GHB under the Controlled Substances Act and list it as a Schedule I drug.

GHB users by the thousands have suffered life-threatening medical emergencies, dozens have died and many women have been victims of GHB-induced rape. Here is just one story.¹ A little over two years ago, Andrea Jeffries, then a 23-year old college student living in Southern California, learned all about GHB. Andrea reported how a man pressured her to drink an alcoholic beverage. "Immediately, I felt buzzed," says Andrea. "I couldn't see clearly and I started to fall out of my chair. It was like I was very drunk, but it didn't make any sense because I had had only one drink." Within the next few minutes, Andrea blacked out.

She recalls slipping in and out of consciousness throughout the night until she awoke on the floor of a shower in this man's apartment. She was naked, lying in the fetal position. "I remember him coming into the bathroom," says Andrea. At that point, he raped her. "It was like everything was in slow motion," she recalls. She blacked out again, and when she came to she was still being raped. This time, "he was holding me down by my neck and I was screaming," says Andrea. After the attack, she balled up on the bed and cried.

As the effects of GHB began to wear off, Andrea grabbed a cordless phone and locked herself in the bathroom and called the police. Meanwhile, the man ripped the phone unit out of the wall and began ramming the door. Moments after he burst in, the

¹ Cosmopolitan, Monday, February 1, 1999.

police arrived and ushered her to safety. The man was sentenced to three years in prison. But Andrea is still living with the terror of that night. "I'm not the same person I was before," she says. "All it took was one drink and my life was changed forever." One drink of GHB.

GHB is not the only date-rape drug to make the headlines. Until recently, Rohypnol, aka roofies, which is a Schedule I controlled substance, was the most notorious date rape drug. But one twist makes GHB much scarier than roofies. Unlike Rohypnol, GHB is easily produced at home. Anyone with Internet access can find a way to buy the recipe and the kit and cook up a batch. The main ingredients, floor stripper and lye, can be purchased at your local hardware store as well.

GHB has a dual action on the brain. Like cocaine, it stimulates nerve cells that respond to the chemical messenger dopamine, producing an excitatory effect. Like heroin, it activates natural opium-like substances within the brain, causing sedation. Taking GHB is sort of like taking heroin and cocaine at the same time.² Because it's home-brewed, its potency can vary wildly from batch to batch. This means even a single dose can prove deadly. Those who make GHB at home don't realize that the formulas aren't exact, and the amount that simply intoxicated someone the first time can just as easily kill them the next.

Let's take a look at the results of GHB use in the past two months. On January 16, 1999, two fifteen-year old girls from Michigan drank a GHB-laced beer at the apartment of an older boy they had just met. Both girls went into comas. One girl awoke from that coma fifteen hours later. The other girl did not. She was later pronounced dead.

On January 24, at 5:30 a.m. an 18-year old boy from New York, was found collapsed, convulsing and foaming at the mouth on a loading dock next to a nightclub. When the ambulance arrived, young Jimmy Lyons was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was an overdose of GHB. Just a week before this tragedy, a dozen young patrons of another New York nightclub overdosed on GHB.

On February 17, two brothers were found guilty of raping a Georgia college student. The brothers bought some GHB near the school and offered it to two female students. One of the women passed out in the bathroom, near death, and the brothers brutally assaulted the other while she was unconscious in her dorm room. A male friend of one of the girls who stopped by noticed the girls seemed disoriented and called 911. Paramedics arrived while the dazed woman was still being raped.

² Gary I. Wadler, an associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at New York University School of Medicine and lead author of a textbook on drugs and the athlete.

On Feb. 20, three Florida teenagers were rushed to the emergency room after drinking GHB they concocted from a recipe they found on the Internet. The father of two of the boys found his sons vomiting violently and called rescue crews. Their friend was found an hour later lying unconscious in a bush near the family's driveway. The night before the boys' mother found a recipe for GHB lying on her older son's desk.

These are just some of the tragedies caused by GHB. Most incidents go unreported.

In September, 1998, I petitioned the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board and asked this agency to use its authority to classify GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance. The Board convened a public hearing in which it heard testimony on my petition. The Board recommended that the Secretary classify GHB as a controlled substance, but that it be placed in Schedule IV. Although pleased that the Board wanted to criminalize this dangerous drug, I reiterated my position that the correct classification for GHB is Schedule I and not Schedule IV. We are still awaiting the Secretary's decision.

Schedule IV is the wrong schedule for GHB. Schedule IV is for drugs that can be prescribed for medical use. It is illegal to prescribe GHB for medical or any other use. GHB has been banned for medical use by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has conducted over 45 criminal investigations of those who sell GHB.

So, considering GHB as a Schedule IV is a moot point. Even if Pennsylvania were to schedule the drug as a IV, it would still be illegal to prescribe it under federal law. Even if it were approved by the FDA, and this is pure speculation, it should not be placed in Schedule IV. In order to meet the criteria for Schedule IV: (1) the drug must have a low potential for abuse; (2) a currently accepted medical use relative to substances in Schedule III; and, (3) have limited physical and/or psychological dependence liability relative to substances in Schedule III.³ GHB does not meet any of these criteria.

First, there is a high potential for abuse. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), GHB is used to "get high" in 80% of cases and is mixed with alcohol or other drugs in almost 100% of those cases. It is abused by party goers for its euphoric and aphrodisiacal effects. It is also used as an alternative to Ecstasy or

³ Title 35 Pa C.S. § 780-104 (4).

Amphetamine Sulphate (speed).⁴ In 1990, the FDA banned GHB stating that it had, "caused more than 30 people to become ill with symptoms ranging from nausea and vomiting to severe respiratory problems, seizures and coma."⁵ Because of its continued abuse, the FDA had to repeatedly issue warnings that GHB is illegal and widely abused.⁶

The DEA has documented over 3,500 incidents of GHB abuse, a number which has increased dramatically from 16 cases in 1992.⁷ The total number of deaths caused by GHB has risen to 32. In Pennsylvania, at least eight (8) individuals have experienced life-threatening comas following ingestion of GHB in 1998 alone. In March, five (5) young people from Bucks County ingested GHB they had purchased over the Internet; all were hospitalized with life-threatening comas. In May, a 16-year old Centre County girl overdosed on GHB. In July, two (2) Penn State students were rushed to the emergency room after ingesting GHB, both faced life-threatening side effects including seizure and coma. Last April, police raided a clandestine drug manufacturer near Indiana University of Pennsylvania and seized thousands of doses of GHB.

GHB has also become the new date rape drug of choice. Because it's a clear, nearly tasteless, odorless drug over half its victims do not know how it got into their system. It knocks the girl unconscious for four to eight hours, in which time the rape is committed, and she awakens suffering from amnesia and unable to recall what happened. The DEA is aware of at least twenty (20) cases in which GHB was used to commit rape. GHB is now the fourth most often used drug to commit date rape, surpassing the notorious Rohypnol.⁸ Clearly, GHB is highly abused.

Second, there is no accepted medical use for GHB. It has never been approved by the FDA, despite having undergone years of clinical trials by Orphan Medical, Inc. Orphan Medical believes that GHB should be listed as a Schedule IV. However, it is

⁴ Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB) Abuse in the United States, by Janet C. Greenblatt, Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

⁵ FDA Press Release dated 11-08-90.

⁶ FDA Talk Paper dated 2-18-97.

⁷ GHB Briefing Book, United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, July 1998.

⁸ Psychopharmacology Update, Vol. 9, No. 12, 1998.

the scientists at the FDA who approve drugs for medical use, not executives of drug companies. Furthermore, if this Committee makes GHB a Schedule I controlled substance, it will not take this drug out of the hands of one narcolepsy patient in Pennsylvania or anywhere else. Schedule I will not prevent Orphan Medical from distributing this drug within its clinical trials.

Third, GHB has more than limited physical or psychological dependence. After a period of chronic GHB abuse, a woman suffered tremors and insomnia after withdrawal.⁹ Another woman was admitted to an acute inpatient psychiatric hospital after taking GHB for one year. She tried to stop taking it on numerous occasions and each time experienced hallucinations upon withdrawal.¹⁰ A recent report that traced GHB use of eight patients concluded that, "Tolerance and physical dependence [on GHB], as evidenced by a withdrawal syndrome that may include insomnia, muscular cramping, tremor and anxiety, can develop."¹¹ I have attached to my written testimony accounts from dozens of GHB abusers who discuss in frank language its dependence-inducing qualities and the difficulties associated with detoxification.

A physician asked by Orphan Medical to testify at an earlier hearing stated that his "guess" was that "GHB would probably be unlikely to induce physical dependence because it has a very short half life."¹² He goes on to say that "drugs with [a] very short half life are not likely to easily produce physical dependence." Actually, some of the most addictive and physically dependent drugs in the world, like crack cocaine, have a very short half life. Although Orphan Medical has conducted no tests on GHB's dependence liability, it stated that GHB's half life is "about four hours."¹³ Well, the half life for crack cocaine is only 30 to 150 minutes. Most crack addicts report intense cravings for the drug and claim they will do anything to get it.¹⁴ I would like to see some more scientific research on the dependence liability of GHB before I would allow this

⁹ Journal of Toxicology, Vol. 35, No. 6 (Nov. 1, 1997), by Godfrey Tunnicliff.

¹⁰ American Journal Drug Alcohol Abuse, 24(1) pp. 179-183 (1998).

¹¹ Addiction, "Gamma-hydroxybutyrate: an emerging drug of abuse that causes physical dependence," (1997) 92(1), 89-96.

¹² Testimony of Dr. Patrick Beardsley, Ph.D., Medical College of Virginia, before the Pennsylvania Department of Health Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board. January 6, 1999. Page 50 of the transcript.

¹³ Testimony by Patti Engel, Vice President of Orphan Medical, before the Pennsylvania Department of Health Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board. January 6, 1999. Page 86 of the transcript.

¹⁴ Drugs and the Law, Gary J. Miller, Gould Publications, Florida c.1993.

drug to be marketed and sold as a sleep aid. Frankly, we have our hands full treating Pennsylvanians addicted to crack, cocaine, heroin, alcohol and other drugs. We don't need any more.

GHB clearly does not meet the requirements for Schedule IV. However, it does meet the requirements for Schedule I. A Schedule I drug must have the following: (1) a high potential for abuse; (2) no currently accepted medical use; and, (3) a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision. In response to number (1), we know that GHB is highly abused. In response to number (2), we know that GHB is not approved for medical use. In response to number (3), there is a potential lack of safety for use under medical supervision because Schedule IV controls on patient use are weak.

For instance, instead of being required to obtain the drug with a physician's prescription on a monthly basis, where the physician can supervise and keep track of the patient's use, under Schedule IV, the patient may simply be mailed large quantities of GHB for as many as 12 months with only one prescription. The company will mail the drug directly to the patient. In fact, Orphan Medical asserts that it will keep track of patient use and it will be alerted if there is a danger of a patient overdosing or if the drug is being diverted. In my view, this is not a safe way to distribute and use a drug that is so dangerous and so highly abused.

The patient's doctor should supervise the use of this drug, not the company that wants to profit from its sale. Law enforcement should know who is using this drug, not the company that wants to profit from its sale. A schedule that includes adequate safety measures for medical use is Schedule II. Under Schedule II, the patient must visit their doctor every month and obtain a written prescription for a refill. Each distributor must register with my Office and indicate the patient's name, address and dosage. This allows drug enforcement agents to keep a close watch over how Schedule II drugs are prescribed, distributed and used. If GHB is ever approved for medical use, a Schedule II classification would be more appropriate.

The Committee should act to control GHB and place it in the appropriate category, Schedule I. By making GHB a Schedule I controlled substance, it will also allow my Office to prosecute web sites, under the drug paraphernalia section of the Controlled Substances Act, that sell kits for GHB or its equally dangerous precursor chemical GBL.

The Committee should know that because the FDA has banned GHB for medical use and twenty-two (22) states have criminalized it, some distributors have turned to

selling its central ingredient, GBL, instead. Let me take a few moments to talk about this other highly dangerous drug.

Although over 80,000 metric tons of GBL are sold every year by chemical companies for use as floor stripper, circuit board cleaners and other legitimate uses, it is now being sold by illicit operators as a substitute for GHB. They are setting up web sites and selling GBL as a dietary supplement, sex enhancement or sleep aid under labels like Blue Nitro, Renewtrient and RemForce. A woman in Florida overdosed and died from the GBL sleep aid Renewtrient. GBL has caused life-threatening side effects in at least 55 people. In January, the FDA issued a voluntary recall of products containing GBL.¹⁵

In response, I recommend that this Committee consider legislation to list GBL as a chemical subject to registration under the Non-Controlled Substances Reporting & Registration Act.¹⁶ This Act will require manufactures — and web site operators — to register with the Department of Health and to obtain from the buyer a photo driver's license and a signed statement providing a full description of how the substance is to be used. This will cause illicit operators to stop selling GBL because they will not want law enforcement to know what they are selling or how we can find them. This will also prevent Pennsylvania's children from purchasing GBL over the Internet or at the local hardware store.

In conclusion, I recommend that this Committee control GHB and list it as a Schedule I drug. I also recommend that it list GBL as a non-controlled substance. By doing so, you will be giving Pennsylvania law enforcement the tools it needs to keep these dangerous drugs out of the hands of our children and out of the hands of those who would use them to commit unlawful and heinous acts. The health and safety of the people of Pennsylvania is at stake.

I have provided you with a series of letters from the relevant authorities supporting my request. Each of the following individuals and institutions is calling for GHB to be listed as a Schedule I controlled substance. I hope that you will do the same.

1. Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, Executive Committee.
2. District Attorney, Centre County, Ray Gricar.

¹⁵ FDA Talk Paper dated January 21, 1999

¹⁶ Title 35 Pa C.S. § 881

3. District Attorney, Bucks County, Alan Rubenstein.
4. Chief of Police, State College, Tom King.
5. Chief of Police, Middletown Township, Frank McKenna.
6. Dr. Margaret Spear, Director of Pennsylvania State University Health Services and Chair, Pennsylvania State University's Sexual Assault Committee.
7. Dr. Fred Henretig, Medical Director of the Poison Control Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
8. Dr. Michael D. Robertson, Forensic Toxicologist, Nation Medical Services, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania
9. Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

Thank you and I will be glad to answer any questions.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNMARIE KAISER

February 25, 1999

Mr. Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
802 Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Gurian:

On Tuesday, February 9, 1999, the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association had an opportunity to discuss the issues concerning the substance Gamma-Hydroxy-Butyrate (GHB). After careful deliberation, the Executive Committee voted to support Attorney General Fisher's effort to have GHB listed as a Schedule I controlled substance.

The Executive Committee considered the substance's high potential for abuse, as well as the fact that the drug is currently being used as a means to perpetrate sexual assaults. The Committee also noted that the substance Rohypnol is currently listed as a Schedule I controlled substance and the Drug Enforcement Agency supports a Schedule I listing for GHB.

Please consider the position of the Executive Committee when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Germak
President



Ray Gricar
District Attorney

(814) 355-6735
FAX (814) 355-6756

**CENTRE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Courthouse
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
16823

February 4, 1999

Mr. Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
802 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you in support of a petition to list GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance under the Commonwealth's Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. My opinion is based on my experience as a district attorney in a county with an exceptionally high population of young people. We are the home of the Pennsylvania State University.

I believe that there is a high potential for abuse of GHB. It is abused by young people who believe it will provide them with euphoric or aphrodisiacal effects. Last year in Centre County two college students were seriously injured and hospitalized after consuming GHB.

I am also greatly concerned by the fact that GHB is becoming popular as an instrument to facilitate sexual assaults upon women. GHB is clear, tasteless and odorless. Thus it is well-suited to allow a man to prey upon an unwitting victim.

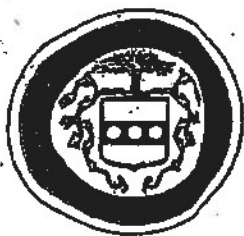
Finally, to my knowledge there is no generally accepted medical use for GHB. For all of these reasons I urge you to classify GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Gricar".

Ray Gricar
District Attorney

RG/sjpk



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BUCKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18901

ALAN M. RUBENSTEIN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
(215) 348-6344

February 4, 1999

Gary Gurian, Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
802 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

RE: GAMMA-HYDROXY BUTYRATE (GHB)

Dear Secretary Gurian:

I am writing to you to express my support for the classification of GHB as a Schedule I Controlled Substance. In this respect, I strongly support the official position of Attorney General D. Michael Fisher who has expressed his views that GHB is a dangerous drug with an extraordinarily high potential for abuse.

As I understand, GHB is a strong central nervous system depressant with euphoria-producing hallucinogenic effects. It apparently has no clearly accepted medical use and has an inordinately strong potential for abuse, especially by young people who may be attracted to its opportunity for a "quick high".

In March of 1998 the Middletown Township Police Department here in Bucks County was dispatched to an apartment complex for a report of "unconscious youths" who had apparently ingested an unknown substance. When the police arrived they found two young men, ages 16 and 17, one of whom was disoriented and the other reported as "breathing but unresponsive". The police investigation revealed that these two young subjects had purchased the chemicals necessary to make GHB via the Internet. The required chemicals were ordered from a company in Cleveland, Ohio and were delivered to these subjects via Federal Express. After mixing these chemicals, these two young men shared the GHB with three (3) of their companions, all of whom experienced near fatal results and were hospitalized thereafter. Fortunately, all of these subjects regained consciousness, however but for the immediate intercession of the police, all of these youngsters could have died from the toxic effects produced by this drug.

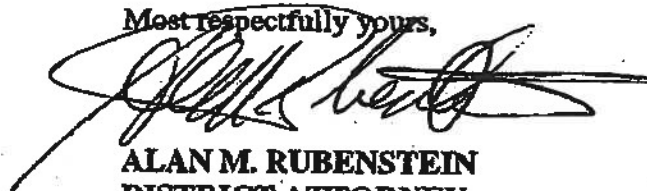
I am enclosing copies of newspaper articles from March 27, 1998 which appeared respectively in the Bucks County Courier Times and the Philadelphia Daily News reporting these incidents.

Separate and apart from the potential fatal effects of its ingestion, GHB also presents a potential as a "date rape" drug given the depressant nature of this substance. This is yet another reason for alarm concerning its use and distribution.

I believe that I speak for many law enforcement officials in requesting that GHB be categorized as a Schedule I Controlled Substance based upon the clear evidence of its harmful effects and high potential for abuse. The urgency for classifying GHB in this fashion is of special importance considering that our local experience in Bucks County indicates that this drug is easily obtainable via the Internet and may be the type of substance which is especially attractive to young people who may be unaware of its harmful results.

I therefore respectfully request that the Department of Health take steps to designate GHB as a Schedule I Controlled Substance.

Most respectfully yours,



ALAN M. RUBENSTEIN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

AMR:kif

cc: D. Michael Fisher, Attorney General

Frank McKenna, Chief of Police
Middletown Township Police Department (Bucks County)

w/enclosures



THOMAS R. KING
Chief of Police

Borough of State College

"A Home Rule Municipality"

STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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State College, PA 16801



814/234-7150
FAX 814/231-3070

February 4, 1999

Mr. Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
802 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Gurian:

I am writing this letter to express my support of Attorney General Mark Fisher's recommendation to have the drug Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB) listed as a Schedule I controlled substance under the Commonwealth's Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

GHB has a high potential to be abused as in the case of two Penn State students who had severe overdoses and were seriously injured. The drug has become popular as an aphrodisiac to facilitate sexual assaults upon women.

I urge you to classify GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. King

THOMAS R. KING
CHIEF OF POLICE



Township of Middletown

POLICE DEPARTMENT

FRANK X. MCKENNA
Chief of Police

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February 2, 1999

Mr. Daniel Hoffmann
Secretary of Health
Pennsylvania Department of Health
802 Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

I am writing to you as I am in full support of the petition of Attorney General D. Michael Fisher to list GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance and rejecting the recommendation of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board to list Gamma-Hydroxy-Butyrate (GHB) as a Schedule IV controlled substance.

There is an extremely high potential for abuse of GHB because of easy availability on the Internet. GHB is a very dangerous drug as three teens from our township found out in March of 1998, when they tried the drug after ordering it through the Internet.

Doctor Fred Henretig, Medical Director of the Poison Control Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who treated the two younger boys, ages 16 and 17, was quoted in the Daily News as saying, "I've talked to doctors all day around the hospital, folks who have seen everything, and they can't believe this stuff is available on the web."

Two of the boys were found unconscious in the home of one of the boys when the parents returned home. The third teen was later found unconscious in a wooded area over a mile from where the other two were found. Fortunately, they were found in time to receive medical treatment before there were serious consequences.

As a law enforcement official who has to deal with the consequences of the abuse of this drug because of its easy accessibility, I respectfully ask you to schedule GHB as a Schedule I controlled substance out of concern for the youth of this state.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank X. McKenna
Chief of Police

FXM/ct

cc: D. Michael Fisher, Attorney General

PENNSTATE

University Health Services

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Rittenour Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

February 4, 1999

Mr. Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Pennsylvania Department of Health
802 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Gurian:

I am writing this letter to express my support of Attorney General Fisher's recommendation to have the drug Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB) listed as a schedule I controlled substance.

GHB has a high potential to be abused as in the case of two students from Penn State University who had severe overdoses and were hospitalized in August 1998.

As the chair of Penn State's Sexual Assault Committee, I also have great concern about GHB being used as a date rape drug.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Spear, M.D.
Director, University Health Services
Chair, Penn State's Sexual Assault Committee



T H E P O I S O N C O N T R O L C E N T E R

February 4, 1999

Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
802 Health and Welfare Building
7th & Forster Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Gurian:

I am writing to express my support for Attorney General Michael Fisher's proposal to make gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) a Schedule I, controlled substance.

As you know, GHB has a high potential for abuse. It is a designer drug which during the spring of 1998 two local teenagers obtained, a kit via the Internet to make the product for \$50. Both teenagers arrived comatose at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. One required admission to our ICU; the other was treated in a medical bed. There is no known antidote for GHB.

In addition to its abuse potential, GHB has become the fourth most often used "date rape" drug plaguing the nation.

Finally, there is no currently accepted medical use for GHB.

I definitely support Attorney General Fisher's proposal that GHB be placed into the Schedule I category.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Henretig, M.D., F.A.A.P., A.B.M.T.
Medical Director

Matthew J. Land, R.Ph.
Executive Director



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March 5th, 1999

Gary Gurian
Acting Secretary of Health
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
802 Health and Welfare Building
7th and Foster Streets Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Gurian:

I would like to express my support for Attorney General Michael Fisher's proposal to make gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) a Schedule 1, controlled substance, together with the registration of gamma butyrolactone (GBL) under the Non-Controlled Substances Reporting & Registration Act.

As a forensic toxicologist, I have been involved in the examination of death cases directly attributed to the use of GHB and death contributed to by GHB i.e. a fatal accident as a result of GHB intoxication. I have also been involved in numerous legal proceedings in which GHB has been used to incapacitate an individual for the purpose of sexual assault. Over the past two years the incidence of GHB related cases, both deaths and assaults appears to be rising.

Recently the GHB precursor GBL has become increasingly popular as a compound of abuse. As a result the number of cases analogous to GHB abuse have been received by the laboratory. This is most likely the result of its ease of access via either the internet, hardware stores or retail stores as a "nutritional supplement". Gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) is a GHB precursor which when ingested is rapidly converted to GHB and therefore produces all the same effects as GHB, is equally dangerous and has the same abuse potential as GHB.

It is for these reasons that I completely support the Attorney General's proposal that GHB be placed into schedule 1 category and GBL be registered under the Non-Controlled Substances Reporting & Registration Act.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Robertson Ph.D
Forensic Toxicologist



February 4, 1999

Acting Secretary Gary Gurian
 Department of Health
 802 Health and Welfare Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Secretary Gurian;

As Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, I am writing to indicate our support for the listing of the date rape drug known as GHB as a schedule I controlled substance. The Coalition is aware that the drug has potential therapeutic uses in its treatment of narcolepsy. However, the dangers inherent in its misuse, as eloquently stated by Attorney General Fisher, demand its criminalization.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Delilah Rumburg
 Delilah Rumburg
 Executive Director

Name: Withheld

Profession: College student

Comments:

Hi- I'm a college student, and I've had one bad experience with GHB and haven't gone near it since. I look upon this website from time to time, and this time I was surprised to see Renewtriant and Revivarant listed as GHB lookalikes. I know many people that are out of college that drink these as alternatives to alcohol regularly as well as sell it. I have never had a bad experience with either of these, but I have taken care of someone who took took much of one of these and was extremely sick. The person was conscious, but unable to communicate and was vomiting etc. I basically wanted to say that it is becoming more popular in the city in which I live, and I think it's dangerous effects of these need ro become more well known.

Name: Randy Stringer

Email: ras@comm.net

Profession: RN

City, State:á Mandeville, LA

Date: 21 Jan 1999

Comments:

My name is Randy. I have been an ER nurse for 11 yrs. I have pretty much seen it all including HGB. Recently in the community in which I work, Metairie Lousiana, I have seen growing number of HGB overdoses. The last was this weekend when I took care of a kid who took an unknown dose of "Blue Nitro." It was an unpleasant site to say the least. He was unconscious except for when we went to lavage (pump out his stomach) him. He became so agitated that it took 7 or 8 people to hold him down during this procedure. Afterwards he was unconcious again. His heart rate was 170 per minute with the high normal being 100. He was admitted to the ICU and I do not know how he did after that. I have seen several of these cases recently and think this drug should be made illegal as it has the potential to cause great harm, even death. I have a fifteen year old daughter and hate to think that she may have exposure to this danderous substance.

Name: Withheld

Email: Marleyivr1@aol.com

Profession: Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist

City, State:á Michigan

Date: 21 Jan 1999

Comments:

Just a short note to thank you for all the info on GHB. Part of my job includes informing and updating schools and community members on drugs and drug trends. Unfortunately, GHB is being abused here more and more. My interest in it was sparked by two recent deaths in the area which were caused by GHB. Your information will be passed onto many school aged kids as well as their parents in the hope that it will prevent them from doing the drug.

Name: Nate

Email: avatarshand@hotmail.com

Profession: Computer systems support

City, State: WA

Date: 20 Jan 1999

Comments:

I was introduced to ghb about 6 months ago. The first few times I did it, I really didnt feel any effect. The dosage of ghb is very critical, a couple drops less than your "level" and you don't feel the effect as you should, couple drops over your level and you can get the spins, vomit, and passout ect.. As I found my "level" in a few short days, I began to consume it mainly at night before bed. I have a sleeping disorder, ghb is wonderful for inducing good sound sleep. It also lifted my general mood and outlook on life. However, I began to take it more and more over the next few weeks. Although I didn't think anything of it, until I ran out of my supply one day. I then had a dreaded experience. It was then that I realized that I am addicted to the substance. I know this contradicts almost every site on the net, but I can attest to you that I am 100% addicted. If I do not consume a normal dose every 3 hours or so, I begin to start have a terrible anxiety attack. My body feels real "heavy", and my palms and feet start to sweat. I am writing this in hopes that somebody out there can tell me where to go to get some help kicking this. I am very strong willed, I have abused alcohol, nicotine, and hydrocodone in the past. When I had had enough of those substances, I willed myself to slowly cut down on the dossages and kick the habbit. But with ghb, if I try to cut down the dossage, I still get the terrible withdrawl symptoms. Checking into a clinic for a 2 weeks as I read in a previous post wouldn't be a viable option for me. Can a doctor prescribe medacation to lesson the withdrawl symptoms? If worse comes to worse a clinic will be the answer, I just hope there is a better way. Thanks, and I hope this letter answers some of your questions from a heavy user. Feel free to email me for a more info.

Nate

Name: Murray Anderson

Email: murray_junior@yahoo.com

Profession: Security Feild

City, State: Toronto, Canada

Date: 18 Jan 1999

Comments:

My experience with GHB has not been good, to say the least. I am a bouncer at a popular club in the city of Toronto, Canada. 1 out of every 20 people take the drug, that attend our club on a Sunday night. Furthermore, I'd say 5 out of the 20, 'G Out' from an over dose without fail. I'd sooner see a person stoned from marijuana then have them overdose on GHB. It is quite scary to drag a person out of a bar and not know for sure if they are alive or not! I have heard that the drug has effects on your nervouse system if an overdose occurs. This does not surprise me, as many of the GHB users seem very stiff and riggid when holding them. Surprisingly, it seems to be a very popular drug, while the effects hardly seem worth the trouble.

Name: tammy warner

Email:

Profession: store manager

City, State: á grand rapids, mi

Date: 17 Jan 1999

Comments:

I am a victim of this drug. just last week someone gave me it while in a local bar. i didnt think nothing of it because it was my cousins boyfriend and felt i could trust him. i was also drinking at the time. (i thought what he gave me was liquor) after just a few minutes i felt numb and very confused. i confronted my cousin and she told me what it was. after that i went into the bathroom for some water. the ghb was very salty tasting and i felt very dehydrated. while waiting in line a girl passed out on the floor and i overheard her friend say that she had just drank something in a cap and it was salty. i immediately reacted to help her. she was going in and out of consciousness and vomiting. i kept her awake untill pharamedics arrived. to top it all off she was only 19. this happened on fri and today is only sun. from what i here ghb is not illegal in michigan but is in many other states.

why can't it be illegal here? i want so much for these people to suffer for what they are doing to kids. tomorrow i hopefully will here from the police, i did file a report fri night. in the meantime, my cousins mother feels this drug is ok and that i was in the wrong. as of friday night our family has seperated because of this. i wish so badly that they would open their eyes and see how dangerous this really is.

Name:

Email:

Profession:

City, State: á

Date: 14 Jan 1999

Comments:

I recently tried GHB with some friends who touted the drug as being "non addictive" and "like alchohol but without the side effects" and after experiencing it and reading this web page I will forever more never try this drug . Oh sure it was cool to be on but the downer side to it is depressing. Some advice to future potential useres of this drug are "dont take it, stay the fuck away from it" while it may be "coool" the side affects and effects of this drug are not to be misinterpreted. this is a highly destructive drug and can only lead to prolonged drug use.

á

Name: Eileen Gould, LMSW
Email: egould@taasa.org, www.taasa.org
Profession: Social Worker
City, State:á Austin TX
Date: 13 Jan 1999

Comments:

I am so sorry about the death of your son. I am glad to see a website on GHB which tells the truth. I am hearing stories about a new drug called GBL, which I have been told is one of the base ingredients for GHB (gamma butyrolactone.) I train law enforcement and rape crisis advocates statewide on issues related to substance abuse and sexual assault. Has anyone else heard of this GHB type drug? I have been told it is marketed as a health food product under various names. If anyone has any information, can you write in?

Also, in my travels across our state, I have talked with hundreds of people who said they were sexually assaulted while under the influence, either voluntarily or involuntarily, of GHB, Rohypnol, or in some cases were not sure what they were given. Not only are women at risk for being victimized, but also several men have told me they were sexually assaulted. Please reconsider if you use GHB or any other substance which impairs you. It makes you vulnerable to being hurt or to hurting others.

á

Name: Withheld
Profession: Student
City, State: San Jose, CA
Date: 17 Dec 1998

Comments:

I have experimented the GHB many times and have mixed feelings on the drug. A GHB "hangover" is a horrible state of depression, slight nausea and irritability that sometimes you get and sometimes you don't. If you do use it DO NOT DRIVE and DO NOT MIX ALCOHOL. If someone wants to experiment with drugs, GHB is a volatile substance, so try something else. It's unpredictability makes it dangerous...from a seasoned GHB veteran.

Name: Trinka Porrata
Profession: Police Officer/Drug Consultant
Email: Equus555@worldnet.att.net
City, State: Los Angeles, CA
Date: 27 Dec 1998

Comments:

As I continue my extensive research on GHB, the news only gets worse. For so long the info was that this isn't an addictive drug and no big deal. Now it is readily apparent that it is highly addictive and, worse yet, getting off of it is tougher than many other drugs. Addicts stand by---you are looking at two weeks in intensive care to shake it. Going into a regular drug withdrawal program without a doctor specifically experienced in GHB is dangerous. I recently interviewed a man who takes 20-30 capfuls per day just to MAINTAIN. He gets no buzz from that dosage. But anything less sends him into the violent shakes and horrible withdrawal pains associated with this drug.

For those of you buying products now being touted as "legal GHB" or "herbal GHB"----it is just an "analog" of GHB and it is NOT legal, at least not in California; California law prohibited its analogs as well as GHB. Unfortunately, the long arm of the law just isn't always long enough to deal with everyone. In 25 years as a police officer, I find this drug the most dangerous in many ways. With most drugs we can predict the effects of each dosage level with some degree of accuracy. Not so with GHB.

Name: A Concerned Friend

From: Louisiana

Comments:

First of all, I would like to extend my sympathies to you and everyone who knew and loved Caleb. I don't have an actual experience. I am almost 22 years old and I have never touched a drug in my life. I haven't even smoked a cigarette. I've always been hesitant to put drugs in my body always believing that no one really knows how drugs will effect different people. I do however know a lot of people who love GHB(liquid G, G, or blue monster as it is called in my hometown). One of my friends fell asleep while stopped at a red light in his truck. Two guys I know take GHB while at work and it seems to me that they are addicted to it. I've never seen GHB before and I ask my friends to respect me and not bring it around me. I plead with my friends to stop. All I get in response is "It is not illegal and it is better for me to do this than to do something else." I cry each time I find out that another one of my friends has been sucked into the drug scene. They tell me "Well, you only live once." I only wish that they would stop increasing their chances that their one life would end so soon. I'll continue praying for them in hopes that they will realize the dangers associated with this drug. Thank you for this web site.

á

Name: Karen

Profession: sexual assault response program educator

Lynchburg, Va..

Date: 10 Dec 1998

Comments:

As an educator for a sexual assault response program, I am pleased to see this type of site on the web. I am online now doing research for a presentation on date rape drugs to the police academy. I know that the facts are fuzzy on these drugs. I have even called the poison contrall, the DEA, and the local drug enforcement, and noone can agree on what schedule, or class. (a drugs rating for toxicity and potential for abuse) these drugs are. there are others out there. Check out Rohypnol, or roophies, a.k.a. X liquid X etc. also there is Ketamine or special K. I could name many. These drugs are not new. I am 26 and I remember these drugs being very popular in the Atlanta club scene in the 80's. Girls watch out, it IS being used to commit rapes. Watch your drinks. If a stranger gives you a drink, be polite, but dont drink it. It is better to be rude than raped. For more info. contact your local sexual assault team or law enforcement. kudos to you!!

Name: Unknown
Profession: Student
Date: 03 Dec 1998

Comments:

I've taken GHB twice. The first time it didn't effect me, but the second time I was given a little more. I had one drink before the second time, and I had I think I probably had a capful, but I'm not positive, because it was placed in my drink straight from the bottle. I was feeling a buzz like that compared to alcohol(that's all I can caompare it to-I've never tried anythng else) and my whole body was really tingly. Then about 15min. later I was feeling very dizzy and I was slurring my speech. Then I ran to the bathroom, and I ended up staying there for over an hour. I was concious but pretty much unaware of what was going on. I felt really weak, and threw up about five times. I felt fne other than tiredness and a stomach ache after that for the next few hours and nto the next day. Now that I know more about GHB and I look back on my experience, it was kind of scary. I'm just lucky that I had people there to take care of me, and I didn't get taken advantage of.

I know I'll never go near it again. I don't need to

Name: Brooke Marion
Profession: Student
Email: demar@airmail.net
Allen, TX
Date: 27 Nov 1998

Comments:

I went out with my 3 friends and 5 guys that I had never met before. Once we met at their apartment, they offered us a drink--"orange juice and some Greek liquor." Being the naive, trusting 18-year-old that I am, I took it. Well, I figured if this is so strong, as they say it is, I'll have one more small glass before we head off to the club. So 10 minutes and two dosages later, I started to feel "drunk." At least that's what I thought. However, two shots of any liquor had ever produced this "euphoric" effect before. Still, I thought nothing of it. At the bar, I had about 3 or 4 more drinks-these did not contain GHB, and my intoxication seemed to be wearing off. So I wanted another one of those good drinks I had before. So the guys took me out to the car, and out of the trunk they pulled a plastic bottle which contained the "liquor." After this drink, 5 minutes later I started feeling very strange. Dizziness, nausea, disorientation, and confusion, not

to mention my extreme sleepiness. In only a couple of minutes, I passed out. Luckily my friend hadn't taken that extra dose like I had, so she was able to watch me. Keep in mind that neither of us knew at this point what had been put into our drinks. Had we known, I would have been in the ER in a heartbeat. Luckily, I was able to vomit and get most of it out of my system, I also experienced diarrhea and I was very agitated. I drove home alone, and by the time I arrived at my house, the feeling had worn off. I woke up the next morning with no hangover and I felt fine. The next night, my friend told me the disturbing news--I had been slipped a "date rape drug"--GHB. The guy who provided it to the guys that night was also there, and he's one of the primary dealers of the drug in the Dallas area. What I want to know is why? I have never in my life touched a drug other than alcohol--not even marijuana. He violated my wishes, my morals, my safety. I was one of the lucky ones.

Name: Leah

Profession: min wage job :(

UserEmail: Rokitgrrl@hotmail.com

Downtown San diego CA

Date: 22 Nov 1998

Comments:

Well I do not have an experience yet, YET, I'll admit Ive used lots of drugs, although never GHB. I have noticed an increase of it being used here in San Diego. I happened upon this website after looking for info on GHB, because one of my best friends has been using it and she told me all this

crazy stuff. Stuff like it tones your body without exercise, and that it's not dangerous. I have read alot about it and Im pretty sure its nothing I'd touch. I wanted to get the real info on it so I can warn her. Im happy to say I dont have a real experience to tell you about, and I hope I never do. I'm very sorry to hear about Caleb, especially since hes from my area. Kids need to know the real dangers if I can help, let me know. I hate to say it but i know ALOT of people who do drugs.... Im trying to inform people.... Oh, by the way, Im 22

Name: n/a

Profession: student

Boston, MA

Date: 10 Nov 1998

Comments:

I am a regular user of GHB, and I have had friends OD on GHB. One just took too much and slept for a few hours. The other took GHB, snorted some E, then took more GHB. (talk about being stupid) This sent her to the hospital, which saved her life. While she knew all the facts, she didn't care. Self destructive behavior should be blamed for this and not GHB by it self. I believe GHB to be perfectly safe, if... You are completely healty. Normal BP, heart rate, and heart beat. Taking a safe ammount. I consider that enought to get high, but not enough to pass out. Alcohol kills if you drink too much, why wouldn't GHB (though i'm not sure it does, its my best guess that it would). Heres the reason I'm writing this, Please don't mix GHB and other drugs. This will get you killed! I know from my friend, and from every report I have read has said that the person mixed with another drug, or had health problems. Alcohol, Speed, E, will give you problems when mixed with GHB. Even weed can cause adverse effects when too much is smoked while on GHB, and that too much is alot less than what you may think. I really enjoyed your site, I found all those other sites to be missleading because they call it safe. Its NOT safe, its a drug. It may be safer, and more plesent when taken in a responsible ammount. Please don't abuse it. The stupid people, and the people that make mistakes about its correct use are giving it a bad light.

Name: Bijan Khaze
Profession: Graphic Designer
UserEmail: Qboxer@aol.com
Toronto, Ontario
Date: 22 Oct 1998 Time: 12:53:21

Comments:

Hi my name is Bijan Khaze. I'm a 23 year old student at a Design school in Toronto. I've been taking drugs for about 8 years now. Ranging from cigs to pot to booze to lsd to coke to x to herion to payote to household products when i had no choice. Then i was introduced to GHB. At first taking a new drug is the best experience in the world(so one might think). You'll all fucked up

and enjoying life, not realizing what's really going on. Your not in reality the feelings your experiencing are not real. They're altered. By the time you do realize whats going on it can be to late. I've lost a girlfriend to GHB and i don't plan to on losing my life just to get HIGH for the night and get laid. Which brings up another point i'd like to mention. When one passes out on GHB, one is not aware of there surroundings. Females beware. I've seen with my own two eyes 13 been raped by a number of men and they don't even know it. Not using Condoms, who knows what the results could be. Not only the females but also for the guys. Any STDs and even pregnancy. The drug is every where and anybody can get it. Not to mention anything else as well. My advice to parents be open with your children. Talk to them about drugs. You may think that your child does not partake in any of these drugs, about 75% of junior high & high school students do. It's a part of growing up as you've probably experienced yourself. Be open and supportive if you can. The worst thing you could do is find out your childs been doing drugs is to Freak out. Talk, share thoughts and watch there attitude, friends, and cash flow. If there sleeping habits change new friends, skipping family events, fighting with sibilings and decreasing food consumption. These are all signs of drug users. Some may be worse than others but its all the same. If anybody has any questions on any realted issues please feel free to E-mail me through this

site. THX Anya, I receive many e-mails critcizing our web site at UF. I also receive the praise and questions of curious students. We have undoubtedly saved a few. You also will save a few. And it is definitely worth it. Good luck and you are to be congratulated on your efforts.

Michael S. Okun, M.D.

Name: withheld
Profession: sales/student
charleston, sc
Date: 20 Oct 1998

Comments:

I've been taking GHB for about three years now. I think it's the best drug. I have had both good and bad experiences with it. I've passed out in many public places. Most of my jobs i work with the public in sales or as a server as a restsuarant. It gives you great social skills and it seems that you have this aura that everyone can feel around you. One thing that worries me is how much i take. I take about 20-25 1/2 tbls. a day. I worried about what its doing to my body. so far nothing has happed yet except for a few bumps and bruises. One thing i did notice is that when you take

this much. Its hard to function w/o it. I've gone through some major withdrawal syptoms sych as shakes, iratibility, unable to sleep, and many others.

Name: Josh

Profession: student

Email: macndacow@aol.com

CO

Date: 14 Oct 1998

Comments:

I found it to be pleasant and I was very active while under the influence. However. since I took my dose during the day twards the evening, about 8:00 PM, I passed out hard after I had came down. It was good, it had no noticeable side effects and thats why it scares me.

á

Date: 10/03/98

Comments:

California lost another one to GHB in August in Santa Barbara county. How awful his girlfriend must feel to have watched him take several drugs, including multiple doses of GHB and watched him vomit and lose control of body functions all over himself.....and then she left to go to work, assuming he'd just sleep it off. But, he didn't. Once again.....a 911 call might have made the difference. I'm sure your readers aren't yet aware of the LA area 18 year old who was given GHB by his martial arts instructor; he passed out, hit his head on the curb and severed the optic nerve in one eye. He's blind in one eye at such a young age. Everywhere I teach in the U.S., within a week or two, they are making GHB arrests. I prefer teaching in preventive situations, but gotta do

whatever. By the way, one of the biggest Internet kit sellers hit the dirt....the long arm of the law finally swung into action. Hopefully more will hit the bucket. It is just so sad how technology such as the Internet is so readily and often abused.

Name: Nichelle Isaacson

Profession: liberal studies major chico state

City, State: chico ca

Date: 28 Sep 1998

Comments:

my ex boyfriend does it and Im very scared for him. I cried when I read the journal entries. How can I get him to stop taking large doses???? Everyone from my hometown of Tracy California does it and they dont know the results of it. Some of the guys make it and use liquid drain-o. Im scared for them because they are still young kids about to graduate from highschool. They are messing up their futures. - nichelle, chico ca.

Name withheld

Comments:

I was at a party last night and GHB was slipped into my drink. Fortunately I was with some I trusted to protect me so I wasn't raped. This is a very dangerous drug and it is on all college campuses used for raping girls. It made me black out and I couldn't recall anything but vomiting.

This drug seriously needs to be watched and get taken off the streets. When girls take this drug unaware it was slipped go unconscious and can't recall what happens. So please take this drug under consideration before distributing it.

City, State: Colton, CA

Date: 27 Sep 1998

Comments:

I found the drug to be entirely pleasant. It provided a very similar buzz to that of alcohol, but did not include any of the unpleasant features such as nausea, dizziness or headaches. I took a very small dosage (1 capful - about 1 teaspoon full) and I was happy for the rest of the night. I slept very well that night and felt wonderful in the morning. My only concern was in the lack of reliable information on the drug and its aftereffects. Everyone has to agree that it sounds a little too good to be true.

Date: 18 Sep 1998

Comments:

I was reluctant to try GHB the other night, but I did...I can see why people enjoy it so much, I was having a great time enjoying every little move I made because all my muscles were tingling...So my friend and I walked to my boyfriends house...on the way I experianced horrible nausea and started to dry heave...almost passing out...when I got to my boyfriends house I proceeded in heaving and eventually passed out...My boyfriend remained up the whole night making sure I was o.k...I realized that I had taken way to much, and I doubt I will ever do it again...the most embarissing thing about it was that while I was passed out cold, I peed in the bed, and my breathing (according to my boyfriend) whould gradually decrease and sound like it stopped...That scares me to think that that happened

Comments:

I "researched" ghb online before trying it. I found NO negative websites whatsoever on it, so I gave it a try. To say the least, it gave me and my partner shingles (which appear only when the body is under great stress). The incredibly painful shingles lasted several weeks, even while

taking famvir. I will NEVER take ghb again EVER. Please get the word out. GHB is very harmful on your body. I've even tried crack cocaine twice, and think GHB is harsher on my body than crack.

Regards,

S

Name: withheld

Profession: Chemist

City, State: Palo Alto, CA

Date: 10 Sep 1998

Comments:

I was very excited when I first started to read all the wonderful claims about GHB on the internet, so I bought a kit and made some (I also ordered pharmaceutical grade material from Biogenesis Labs). I tried minimal doses of 100mgs to 500mgs several times. After 4 or 5 doses, spaced out over several weeks, I noticed a peculiar feeling the morning after. It's not easy to describe, but sort of like waking from a deep sleep in the middle of the night feeling sort of "woozy". This feeling persisted several days. When I tried GHB again, I experienced the same result. It has taken about 4 weeks for this strange sensation to subside entirely. I am not sure what was going on and have not seen this described anywhere else. All I know is that it was real and intense at times. Obviously, GHB is not fully understood and there must be some unknown interactions going on in the brain. I will definitely not be trying it again. Do not use my name if you put this on the net anywhere.

Name: J bell

Profession: jeweler

Email: hgdiv@aol.com

Date: 09 Sep 1998

Comments:

I became addicted to ghb after about three weeks of using it daily. The withdrawel symptoms are worse than heroin which I have gone through.

Comments

As I read you pages, the salt laced drops of water hit my keys, bringing back the flood of memories once pushed back so far as not to remember the loss of my best friend. The loss of my best friend over such a <expletive> stupid thing as a drug.. the drug... GHB.. (To us, GH Buddy) I have re-posted this URL (<http://www.cbcnetwork.com/GHB/index.htm>) to over 1000 newsgroups, webs, gopher sites and alike across the information waste-land, in hopes of informing just one soul, even if one, I will feel better for the stupidity I once joined in to. Watch your Children, Love them, Never let them "break away"

In memory,

Jason

Name: Jeff Thomas

Profession: Licensed Clinical Social Worker (psychotherapist)

Email: ktnkt@connectnet.com

Web:

San Diego, CA

Date: 19 Jul 1998

Comments:

I read your article in the 6/28/98 edition of the San Diego Union Tribune. I a psychotherapist (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) and have worked with both personal problems, mental illness, depression and substance abuse for some time. I have a private practice and had a client seek my services for GHB addiction. Although I have been in the field for 10 years, I hadn't heard of GHB and when even when I spoke to a local and well known detox center they did not know what it was. I looked on the Internet and much to your experience listed in the article much of the information was in favor of its use. I did find some websites which told about the abuse of GHB. I

mostly learned about it through my client. I have learend about how greatly destructive it is physical and mentally. I would just like to offer my support of your newsletter and your getting the message out there. If you have any further questions or feel that I could be of help in some way please feel free to e-mail me or give me a call. I have a private practice where I see all sorts of problems and will be starting a website soon for on line consultation for mental health information and personal issues. I did not write this e-mail to push myself or services at all but I was greatly pleased to see the article and plan on xeroxing it for my clients. I also commend the San Diego Tribune for printing an article like this which has so little press in general. Thank you again.

Jeff Thomas

Name: withheld

Date: 01 Jul 1998

Time: 20:19:17

Comments

You pretty much, hit the nail on the head!

á

Name: Jeff Cavellini

Profession: student

UserEmail: chiefcav@aol.com

CityState: Petaluma, CA

Date: 29 Jun 1998

Time: 12:21:29

Comments

Justin Micheal Sommers California State at Chico College RIP 4-18-97 GHB/Alcohol related death My best friend gone forever With a Casual Passion-CAVEL

á

á

MessageType: Experience

Subject: Other Media Report

SubjectOther: 6-28 Spokane, WA news report

Name: Danna Metcalf

Profession: Office work

UserEmail: dnd@clarkston.com

CityState: Clarkston, WA

Date: 29 Jun 1998

Time: 01:50:40

Comments

6-28-98---Dear Mrs. Shortridge and family, I heard about you on a news report that I saw tonight and I would like to send you our sincerest sympathy for the loss of your son. How that must be a terrible experience for you all. It is VERY commendable of you to share your experience with others, even designing a web page for it. What a way to put your energy into something that will warn about the dangers. . . With concern, Danna

Comments:

What prompted me to read your web-page was an article in the San Diego Union Tribune about GHB and your son.á First of all, I am so sorry that this happened to you. Words cannot express.á Secondly, I am so infuriated that there are companies that are allowed to sell GHB kits on the Internet!á Of course, they have their disclaimers, but that is simply to cover themselves.á What they are really doing is selling illegal drug kits to our children.á Shoot, it's like selling cocaine or heroin over the Internet and simply having a disclaimer makes it ok, I guess. And FED X can even overnight it!á

WHERE IS THE FDA?á Why are these companies allowed to do this?

It really scares me anymore how our country has spiraled into such a state of decline. I continually pray for protection for my children from these maniacs.

Lauri Trunnel

Comments:

I lost my Fiance to GHB on May 17, 1998. I never heard of this drug. I am a Emergency Medical Technician and he was a R.N. Both 42 years old. My heart goes out to you and yours. . . god bless you and your family. . . ~ Name withheld

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Thursday, January 21, 1999 07:55 PM