



PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST RAPE

A state network of centers serving victims of sexual violence.

Good morning. My name is Diane Moyer and I am the Public Policy Director for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR). PCAR was founded in 1975 to advocate on behalf of victims of sexual violence. PCAR is the administrative entity for 53 rape crisis centers throughout the Commonwealth. PCAR oversees the centers' contracts, provides technical assistance, and advocates for legislative initiatives that affect victims of sexual violence.

I am here today to convey PCAR's support for the Attorney General's initiative to classify GHB as a schedule I drug. The Coalition does, however, acknowledge the possibility for medical use of GHB. The Coalition agrees with the Governor's recommendation that should the FDA approve GHB for medical use, the drug should be classified as a schedule II drug.

GHB is one of several substances known to be used in the commission of drug facilitated rape. GHB is a particularly pernicious substance as the drug can be acquired through sources located on the Internet.

As you probably all know by now, GHB is slipped into an unsuspecting person's beverage, and produces sedative effects leading to the vulnerability of the victim. Especially problematic, is the amnesia inducing stupor that GHB produces in a victim.

It is therefore difficult for a victim to know just what happened. This, of course, causes investigative problems for police officers, and prosecution problems for district attorneys.

Rape victims are often reluctant to report an incident in a timely fashion. The victim feels ashamed and powerless. There is often, therefore, a delay in evidence gathering, during which time the drug may have already passed through the victim's system.

The best way to eliminate drug facilitated rape is to punish those who make and distribute the drugs.

Thank you for your time and attention.



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