REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

CS HB7 (JUD) - Ban on Controlled Substances

A new synthetic cannabinoid, commonly known as K2 or Spice, has become readily available at local stores and over the internet. Some users of this chemical compound experience severe adverse reactions including hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, agitation, and panic attacks.

The synthetic cannabinoid is a combination of herbal and chemical compounds that commonly produce a reaction similar to the use of marijuana. The popularity is increasing, especially among youth, due to easy accessibility, low cost, and the difficulty of detection on drug tests.

The first introduction to K2 came to my attention through an individual's story. Within moments of inhaling K2 the young man experienced adverse reactions that included severe vomiting, loss of reality, inability to walk and talk, and violent outbursts. Without the quick reaction of those nearby there may have been tragic ending to this story. Many similar stories have surfaced in communities throughout Alaska. To date, nine states have successfully enacted laws to prohibit synthetic cannabinoids.

HB7 will classify certain synthetic cannabinoids as schedule IIIA controlled substance. Schedule IIIA includes materials, compounds and mixtures which contain similar synthetic chemicals. It is important that we get ahead of this growing problem and I urge your support for the passage of this bill.