

## Testimony for HB7

I would have to start by saying that I never thought I would have had a bad trip on synthetic herb, most times people have bad trips from mushrooms or acid but that herb I had was unlike anything I'd ever heard of. I had started smoking spice in February of this year and smoked on weekends. The appealing side of this herb was that it gave a marijuana like high for about 3 hours with just a couple of hits and the best part being that you didn't have to worry about drug tests because it passed for friends that I knew in the military so passing standard tests was not a problem.

Now another plus to this herb was that unlike normal weed, this herb is not supposed to produce any paranoia, and there was no sign of being high at all, such as no red eye, no half open eyes and you were able to basically be a functional stoner, you could be in public and not look or smell high in anyway. This of course was very appealing to me and many of my friends who also couldn't smoke weed because of drug tests at their jobs.

The brand of spice I had been smoking for about 6 months was called red dawn, spark 20. The herb I smoked the night of my incident was called spike, max. I only had 2 hits and less than 2 minutes later I was losing my perception of what was real in every way, it turned everything into a fuzzy cartoon like picture and I lost control of my legs that I couldn't walk at all. I couldn't talk. I could hear what I thought and what I wanted to say, but all I was spitting out was gibberish. This went on for what felt like many hours. I can remember thinking to myself that I wasn't actually going come out of this craziness and this might be how I end up dying! I remember telling my brother to call 911 and remember going into the ambulance and ending up in the hospital for a day. The doctors haven't had an incident with synthetic herb until that night and I had to basically be flushed out for 10 hours.

I know many people are still going to want to try spice but the fact it's just a bunch of chemicals sprayed on tobacco and nobody knows what the long term affects of this herb are and the scary thing is that this stuff is so easy to purchase. The price has dropped here in town from \$53 a gram down to \$30 a gram, which is just a bit more than the going rate for actual weed.

I would have thought this herb was completely harmless but the fact that a regular smoker such as myself could even have a bad experience as bad as mine was a huge eye opener to just how bad this stuff really is. The fact that it's very easy to get in town and that it only takes a little bit to get to a mind altering high is spooky. I know a large number of kids in town have had a substance abuse problem and this drug is dangerous because of the fact you can have an herb that twists reality in such a way that you can't tell what's real and what's a hallucination. I see this problem getting worse in the near future because it's a new drug that is easy to obtain and has a weed like high and at the same time has dangerous side effects.