



January 31, 2011

Alaska House of Representatives

RE: Synthetic Cannabinoids

To Whom it May Concern,

The purpose of this correspondence is to support House Bill 7 that would list certain synthetic cannabinoids found in “K2” or “Spice” as Scheduled controlled substances which will provide law enforcement will have the necessary authority to prosecute the sell and possession of these substances. These drugs are currently being sold in several local vendors which sends the social message that they are not harmful and social acceptable; thereby, increasing the risk for youth consumption and related consequences.

K2/Spice products are a mixture of herbal/spice plant products sprayed with potent psychotropic drugs, often contaminated with unidentified toxic substances which is marketed under variety of names including K2, Spice, Pep Spice, Spice Silver, Spice Gold, Spice Diamond, Smoke, Sence, Skunk, Yucatan Fire, Genie & Zohai and sold in variety of colors/flavors-usually sold in foil packaging

The growing popularity of these drugs is causing increasing alarm among law enforcement officials, lawmakers, and health care professionals across America. “Spice” has been banned by some U.S. domestic and overseas military commands as well as in Germany and other European countries because substances have been identified in the product to have the presence of chemicals with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-like effects.

The danger in smoking “Spice” is that the product is unregulated and not manufactured in a controlled environment. Smoking this product could be very harmful because the substance could also include unknown contaminants. Therefore, there is no way to accurately determine what the potential harmful effects could be. ¹ Medical officials concur that smoking “Spice” can cause adverse effects to one’s health. Hospitals have reported incidents of people, mostly

¹ 4Mind Hacks: Spice flow: the new street drug pharmacology December 01, 2009, Accessed 13 May 2010 and Wikipedia Accessed 13 May 2010

teenagers, visiting emergency rooms for: heart palpitations, respiratory issues, panic attacks, hallucinations, delusions, and, one case where a teen lapsed into a coma.²

The Mat-Su Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition seeks to reduce substance abuse among youth by advocating for and implanting evidence-based environmental strategies. These drugs are currently sold at local shops which increases access to the drug and sends the social message to young people that they are acceptable and not harmful.

I have attached legislation adopted by the state of Missouri which contains a list of the compounds used to create these drug which can be used by the Senate as a template to draft a similar bill/ordinance.

The Mat-Su Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition appreciates your time and consideration of this issue. If you would like any additional information, please contact the project coordinator, undersigned. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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Vision: Our vision is to enhance our community by supporting healthy lifestyles and drug free alternatives.

Mission Statement: To reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing the factors in our community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

² "Synthetic Marijuana A Growing Trend Among Teens, Authorities Say", CNN/WIBW.com March 24, 2010.
Accessed 10 May 2010