



Senator Jason Prince

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Dear Constituent,

The world today relies on the use of drugs daily. Whether it's for medical use or for self pleasure, the concept of altering your thoughts is a controversial issue. Drugs are used to treat a variety of illnesses and come in many forms, one of which is anti-depressants. A new drug, called Psychamine, was recently discovered at Yale University that is used to bring a sense of contentment to ones life. Shortly, congress will be taking a vote on whether to ban it, make it an over the counter drug, or let it be available by prescription only. I, as your Maine's First District Congressional Representative will be voting to make it accessible strictly by prescription. My vote is based upon the fact that Psychamine is deemed an overall safe drug; however those who don't specifically need it for an illness might be putting themselves and others around them in danger.

Psychamine was created by Sol Yurick a biochemist at Yale University. It was discovered by accident, but might prove to be very useful to many individuals with depression, bulimia, substance abuse problems, and a handful of other illnesses. The drug works by filling empty nerve endings with T-cells which will calm a person down, making them feel okay with who they are and what they are doing. "I'd say the drug produced a sensation of 'contentment'" (Yurick). Many experiments have been done for the research of Psychamine proving it's a safe drug. Sharon Jefferson, who some would say was a professional of drug abuse, was used in a multitude of tests to check to see if there was any way to get a real high off Psychamine. All tests came back negative even when they upped her doses.

They tried me on higher and higher doses to see what would happen – if people could overdose. And the same thing happened, no matter how much they gave me so I guess there's no way to get any real high off it, or into any trouble either. Mellowed me, that's all. (Jefferson)

These tests also proved it was impossible to overdose no matter how much of it you took. Along with these benefits the drug will not cause damage to the liver or brain, both of which are normally very prone to damage due to drugs. Even when combined with other chemicals such as alcohol or other drugs, Psychamine will not cause you any harm.

Though Psychamine seems to be a wonder drug, when misused it can be quite destructive. This is not a result of the drug itself, but because of the actions one might have while being influenced by it. Fred Chaffin, a juvenile officer at New Haven Police Department, has seen the side effects of the drug on kids who just took it to have fun. "It makes them forget about the important things in life and do really stupid things" (Chaffin). By making the drug accessible through a prescription it will stop not just kids, but adults too, from putting themselves in danger by taking Psychamine. "It can make people dangerous. They're so mellow they're not paying attention" (Chaffin). When you're this careless simple things like crossing the street could send you to your deathbed.

While taking a drug for an illness is one thing, taking it to get high is quite another story. Psychamine needs to be a fairly restricted drug because if you don't make it available by only prescription many people will just take it whenever they come across a problem. Using the drug to get through life isn't going to make things any better. People first need to use other alternatives, like talking to a psychologist or a friend before seeking out the help of a medication. Using Psychamine to "escape from reality" (Chaffin) will just prolong a person's pain. They need to first deal with it with a clear, un-medicated mind.

All drugs have some downfalls to them. However, Psychamine, while being used properly, could have many benefits. Because of it not causing any physical damage to a person, no matter how much they take, it could be used as a replacement for other depression medication that might be leading to other health problems. People living with depression will be able to "cope better with difficult environment(s)" (Yurick), and when they feel that they can take care of things without the use of an anti-depressant they won't have to go through the trouble of withdrawal from Psychamine.

Some say that Psychamine should be banned altogether. They believe that it will cause more harm than good giving kids just another drug to get high off of. While I understand their concern, having it fairly restricted will eliminate the availability of the drug. However, people who want something will find a way to get it one way or the other. The wonderful thing about Psychamine is that people won't overdose, they can't get a true high off of it, so the harm of someone getting a hold of it illegally won't cause too many issues.

Others say that it should just be sold over the counter, like aspirin. Everyone would have the chance to be happy, and no one would be down in the dumps having problems. “The world could go on without war and violence” (Fennel). People who favor making it totally legal say that there is no harm in taking the drug because it’s impossible to overdose, become addicted or, damage your liver and brain. Overall they believe it will work marvels on our society. These are valid points, but putting the stuff in our drinking water won’t be solving anyone’s problems. People would start to not care about learning, or achieving any goals. Being unhappy about where you’re at in life is not always a bad thing. It makes you strive to become a better person. This is how people improve the world. If everyone was satisfied with their lives then no one would work hard at anything. Working hard at something is an honest way to have a happy, healthy life. Taking drugs might be the easy way out, but there are some of us who are left with no other options. This is where Psychamine should come in. It will not harm your body, in any way, if you use it properly. Restricting it to prescription will allow doctors to make an educated decision on if you’re a proper candidate for the drug. It will also help control keeping the drug off the streets so misuse of it will become limited. Having Psychamine as a prescription drug will not cause any harm to our society, if anything it will improve it, helping those who suffer from a variety of illnesses become cured.

I have worked hard to understand all points of view on this controversial new drug. Thank you for understanding mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Prince". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Jason Prince
First Congressional District, Maine