

Dear NH State Elks,

OK, we have talked about these synthetic drugs at State Meetings, Drug Awareness Clinics and via e-mails for quite some time. We know how dangerous these synthetic drugs can be and that the companies who produce them know they are being used to get high. These drugs need to be outlawed and the federal legislators are presently debating the issue. The Elks have the largest voluntary Drug Awareness Program in the Country, please help me let our national legislators know that we want these synthetic drugs outlawed. Please review the following information regarding this request. I hate to be blunt, but I must remind you, kids who use these drugs are dying.

In service to our youth and our state association,
Joe Giunta, Chairman
NHSEA, Drug Awareness

<http://new-futures.org/action-alerts/support-federal-legislation-prohibit-sale-synthetic-drugs>

Support Federal Legislation to Prohibit the Sale of Synthetic Drugs

Call the United States Representatives and Senators listed below and ask them to act now to prohibit the sale of synthetic drugs by including the Portman/Schumer Amendment in the final version of the Food and Drug Administration User Fee Programs bill.

BACKGROUND

- **Synthetic Drugs:**
 - Are chemical compounds that when smoked, ingested, or otherwise consumed, cause symptoms similar to those of marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other illegal substances.
 - Are marketed as legal substances under the general names of "herbal incense" and "bath salts" and product names including "K2", "Spice", "Vanilla Sky", and "Ivory Wave".
 - Are sold in small packets over the internet, in tobacco and smoke shops, drug paraphernalia shops, gas stations, and convenience stores and are marked "not for human consumption" in order to avoid FDA oversight.
 - Are attractive to those seeking a "legal high" - often allowing them to pass workplace or other mandatory drug screenings.

- Are especially attractive to young people - recent data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse indicated that one in nine high school seniors had used K2 or Spice in the last year. Use of synthetics has resulted in increasing public health and safety problems in New Hampshire, including the recent emergency room admissions of high school youth with acute psychotic symptoms.
- **Current Federal legislation offers the best hope for strong federal control of synthetic drugs.** The Senate version the Federal Food and Drug Administration User Fee Program bill, currently in the Committee of Conference process in Washington, includes the Portman/Schumer Amendment which will prohibit the sale of synthetic drugs.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED NOW - IT'S ANTICIPATED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETE IN THE NEXT 10 DAYS.

For more background information, click [here](#) or visit the [Synthetic Drugs Issues Page](#).

TAKE ACTION

- **Contact all four of the United States Senators and Representatives who are the most directly involved with the Committee of Conference on the Senate and House FDA bills (listed below) with the following message:**

"I am contacting you about the Committee of Conference on the FDA User Fee Legislation [S. 3187 - FDA Safety and Innovation Act; H.R. 5657 - FDA Reform Act] to ask that the Portman/Schumer Amendment be included in the final bill. The Portman/Schumer Amendment will prohibit the possession and sale of synthetic drugs such herbal incense and bath salts sold as legal substances under names like K2, Spice, Vanilla Sky and Ivory Wave. These products, which are widely sold over the internet and in gas stations and convenience stores, are incredibly dangerous - producing symptoms similar to those of methamphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, and other illegal substances. Many states have taken action to ban them, but their use continues to grow. Strong federal action now is required to protect public health and safety."
- Contact Information:
 - **Senator Tom Harkin** (Iowa): 202.224.3254.
 - **Senator Mike Enzi** (Montana): 202.224.3424.
 - **Representative Fred Upton** (Michigan): 202.225.3761.
 - **Representative Henry Waxman** (California): 202.225.3976.
- Contact New Hampshire Senators Shaheen and Ayotte and ask them to use their influence on Senator Harkin and Senator Enzi to ensure that the Portman/Schumer Amendment is included in the final version of the FDA User Fee Program legislation.
- Contact Information:
 - **Senator Kelly Ayotte:** [Email](#) or call 202.224.3324.
 - **Senator Jean Shaheen:** [Email](#) or call 202.224.2841.

- Contact your member of the United States House of Representatives (Representative Frank Guinta/Congressional District 1 or Representative Charles Bass/Congressional District 2) and ask them to use their influence on Representative Upton and Representative Waxman to ensure that the Portman/Schumer Amendment is included in the final version of the FDA User Fee legislation.
 - Contact Information:
 - **Representative Frank Guinta:** [Email](#) or call 202.225.5456.
 - **Representative Charles Bass:** [Email](#) or call 202.225.5206.
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TIPS ON CONTACTING FEDERAL LEGISLATORS:

- Communication with Federal Legislators is different than communication with state legislators because such communication is with staff, whose job it is to track the volume and nature of communication.
- E-Mail Communication: We've contacted all of the legislators above and have found that the best way to communicate is through phone calls. Many of the U.S. Senators and Representatives outside of New Hampshire will neither accept nor reply to e-mails from individuals living outside of their districts.
- Telephone Communication:
 - Very few federal legislators have 800 numbers;
 - Calls will be answered by staff members - who get many calls per day. You will need to be clear, brief, and specific about your request - making reference to the FDA User Fee Program legislation and the Portman/Schumer Amendment. Feel free to read the message provided above or your version of it.

HAVE QUESTIONS/NEED MORE INFORMATION? Contact New Futures Advocacy Director Tricia Lucas at tlucas@new-futures.org or 225-9540, ext. 110 and check out the [Synthetic Drugs Issues Page](#) on the New Futures website.

Policy Issue Parent:
[Synthetic Drugs](#)

Policy Issue Aggregate:
[Public Health and Safety](#)