



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Testimony of Kyle Smith, Assistant Attorney General
Deputy Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

In Support of HB 2353

February 25, 2013

Chairman Rubin and Members of the Committee,

This written testimony is presented on behalf of Attorney General Derek Schmidt and KBI Director Kirk Thompson in support of HB 2353 dealing with adding a new synthetic dangerous drug, UR-144, to our drug schedules.

Kansas has adopted the Uniform Controlled Substances Act approach to dealing with dangerous drugs. As such, there are five lists or schedules of drugs, with schedule I being the most dangerous with no medicinal value and schedule V being the least dangerous and most useful, so the fewest restrictions. Since any drug intended for human consumption is regulated, drug dealers are frequently developing new chemical compounds that are not listed on any of these schedules and so are not regulated, and then packaging them with false labels such as “bath salts” or “potpourri” so they can claim they are not for human consumption - while being sold for hundreds of times the price of legitimate incense or bath salts. Members of the committee might remember legislation the last two years dealing with other synthetic cannabinoids which went by names as “K2” and “Spice”. Worse, the distributors advertise these compounds as “legal” since they are not on the schedules, which give merchants and consumers the false idea that these drugs are safe.

Such drugs are not tested and their effect on humans is basically unknown – other than the fact that they have similar chemical compounds to controlled substances and so have similar impact on the human central nervous system. UR-144 is the latest in this sad parade of designer drugs and it has an exponentially greater ability to connect with the brain’s receptors than naturally occurring cannabinoids, and so greater damage to its victims.

The Kansas Board of Pharmacy added UR-144 to the Kansas drug schedules last summer pursuant to K.S.A. 65-4102, but that emergency provision will only last a year. HB 2353 needs to be passed if law enforcement is going to be able to protect the public from these dangerous and untested drugs.

I would be happy to stand for questions.