

had everything but free samples. As the author of this letter tells us, “. . . the way in which he spoke of drugs made them seem appealing and beneficial.” This type of message is not isolated.

From music to videos to movies and advertisement, we are seeing efforts once again to glamorize drugs. We have seen initiatives in several states to push drug legalization under various disguises. Just recently a micro-brewery in Maryland has begun to market a beer made with marijuana seeds under the title “Hempen.”

Not too long ago some of our major fashion industry folks began to use models with the “Heroin Chic” look. We are seeing opinion leaders and members of our cultural elite portray drug use as simply a personal choice that is harmless and benign. Many of these individuals act as if the only issue is for responsible adults to decide for themselves. They speak as if it is only adults that we need to think about. This, however, is not in fact the case.

If you do not believe this, talk to parents. Talk to teachers. Talk to the health and law enforcement professionals who daily see the consequences. Visit the emergency room of your local hospital and talk to the doctors and nurses who see every day the effects of drug use.

Go to a treatment center and sit and talk to some of the patients, listen to their stories of how drug use has destroyed their lives, their families.

But most important, listen to what kids are telling us about what is happening in their schools. To their friends. Ask them where they get their information, and who they listen to. If this letter tells us anything, it is that we must listen to our kids, if for no other reason so we know whom they are listening to. Above all, we need to do a better job at delivering a clear, consistent, no-use message to our kids.

As we move into the appropriations cycle, we need to keep that need firmly in mind. We cannot repeat the mistake that we made in the 1960's and 1970's. Last time we had a drug epidemic we could claim ignorance. We don't have any excuses if we let it happen again.

EXHIBIT 1

LESSONS YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO TEACH US

After a former drug abuser came to speak to four 10th-grade health classes at a suburban New York City high school, 16-year-old Victoria Slade sent this letter anonymously to her teacher. The teacher subsequently told the classes that, because of negative feedback, she would not leave guest speakers alone with students. Slade has since told the teacher that the letter was from her. It is being reprinted with Slade's permission.

I am a student in one of your health classes this semester. As a transfer student from a very small private school, I am daily finding out shocking things about the various actions and addictions of my peers. I am currently drug-free, alcohol-free, pot-free, smoke-free, etc. The solid background I received from my previous school ensures that I will remain thus, but I am extremely concerned about my classmates, many of whom

I fear are already trying drugs and alcohol. For this reason, I was glad when you announced that the surprise guest speaker was someone who had been addicted to cocaine and marijuana. I expected that seeing what happens to you when you get into drugs would make many students reconsider what they were doing. However, I was sadly mistaken in this assumption.

The guest speaker entered as a well-dressed, good-looking individual. He was relatively well-spoken and complemented his serious discussion with occasional light humor. He was described as a good student who got into trouble and was saved by his loving teachers. In our eyes, he became the victim of a corrupt police force and government. Soon forgotten was the fact that he got himself into this trouble through the sale and consumption of illegal substances. While you were present in the room, the young man acted in accordance with your wishes: we could relate to him, and so we listened attentively to the important lesson he was teaching us.

However, once you left the room, this tragic figure opened with the line: “So, do you guys have any questions? I can tell you anything you want to know about drugs.” He continued in the same manner, describing the different effects of different drugs: which were best, which made you able to concentrate better, how cocaine kept him awake so he could study. When asked if you could remember what you studied the next day, he responded with an emphatic affirmative. He mentioned that if you studied while under the influence of marijuana, you wouldn't do well on the test unless you were high again while taking it, in which case you would perform to the best of your ability. His explanation for this phenomenon was that you are on a different level of consciousness while high. Furthermore, he assured us that being high on marijuana has no effect on your ability to drive, as your reaction time is not altered by the drug. He described the various types of Ecstasy, explaining that he took the 70-percent drug-content one once and became very ill. However, he soon canceled this out by describing the type with 30 percent drug content as “nice.” Also, he gave us a recipe for a different, stronger form of cocaine.

The pleasing physical effect of drugs was not the sole topic of conversation. At one point, someone asked him why he would get into drugs if he was doing well in school and getting good grades. This question led him into a 10-minute exaltation of selling drugs for a living. He raved about the incredible amounts of money he made, mentioning more than twice the fact that he had four nice cars. We were all impressed when he said that he made over \$500,000 in just four years of selling drugs. I's sure that those of us who work were thinking contendedly—of our five-dollar-an-hour jobs cleaning the toilets and places like McDonald's and Boston Market.

Our new role model summed up his report on the world of drugs by telling us that he was still smoking weed until just a few days before. He said he wanted to smoke as much as he could before he had to be clean for the Navy drug test. Also, he informed us that if he had not been caught, he would definitely still be using and dealing drugs now. One of his final bits of advice was that they couldn't screen you for alcohol, so it is okay to drink.

There were many other appalling statements made by this gentleman which quite disturbed me. As I mentioned earlier, many students at this school are into drugs and alcohol. I think that the idea behind this visit was good: We could live vicariously through this young man, whose life is (or should be) all but destroyed because of drugs. However,

the way in which he spoke of drugs made them seem appealing and beneficial. It upsets me to think of how many classes of impressionable youths were influenced by this man—how many minds were made up by his wonderful tale. I hope that you do not promote future visits with this particular guest speaker and thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Student.

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS I

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the House is in the process of taking steps to alter fundamentally the annual certification process for drugs. In addition, there have been a number of statements in the press and elsewhere by Members of Congress and others on problems with certification. Individuals in the Administration, including the Drug Czar, have also broached the idea of change. I agree that some form of strengthening of the certification process is needed. Indeed, I offered my “Three Strikes and you're out” bill last year with the idea of making the certification process tougher. I also suggested some fixes this last February in the debate over Mexico. But I also think that it is important to take a hard look at what the certification process is before we tinker with it.

The recent discussion of the certification process is born out of frustration over the decision on Mexico. I share some of these concerns and the frustration. But the present effort is little more than an attempt to water down congressional oversight of US narcotics policy. It does so in the name of flexibility. It does so so that we won't be too hard on our international partners. I believe this approach is wrong. And I will vigorously oppose efforts to short change the public's interest in upholding tough standards for certification.

Since much of the discussion in recent weeks on certification is based on a series of myths about it, I think it is useful to review some of these misconceptions.

The principal myth is that the certification process unfairly brands other countries for drug supply problems. It also maintains that this is unfair while the United States does nothing to deal with its demand problem.

There are several things wrong with this view. First, even if the United States did nothing about demand, we have a right and an obligation to do something about supply. This is especially true since most of the dangerous, illegal drugs used in this country are produced overseas. These drugs are then smuggled into the United States, often with the collusion of public officials in other countries.

Our right to stop this flow stems from the fact that we and virtually every other country in the world are signatories of international agreements. These agreements bind us and them to action to stop drug production, trafficking, and money laundering. Moreover, most of these same

countries—including the ones we certify—have made drug production, trafficking, and money laundering illegal under their own laws. And, many of these countries have bilateral agreements with the United States that commit them to take meaningful action against drugs. Thus, countries are bound to act in terms of international law. They are committed to binding agreements with the United States. And they have obligations in terms of their own domestic legal frameworks.

It is neither unfair nor presumptuous for the United States to expect other countries to abide by laws and commitments that they have made. Nor are we being a busybody or arbitrary when we expect and require countries to uphold appropriate international standards of conduct. Indeed, it is only by insisting that such principles of conduct be observed that we have any hope of sustaining respect for and observance of international law. This is understood when it comes to judging other countries on their compliance with a host of other international canons.

After all, we expect countries to observe principles governing human rights, sound environmental practices, fair trade, counterterrorism, and intellectual property rights, to name but a few. The United States has been a leader in promoting respect for these areas of concern.

Congress has passed a host of certification requirements regarding them. In part, this is because we recognize that failure to uphold these principles in the face of willful or negligent disregard is to abandon the idea of standards altogether. And it makes at least as much sense to hold other countries responsible for trafficking in dangerous drugs as it does to scold them for trafficking in pirated CD's.

As I said, we also have an obligation to uphold these standards. Our obligation is to the American people and to the policies we promote in their interest. Protection of the citizens of this country from enemies, foreign and domestic, is one of our most important responsibilities. Stopping dangerous drugs coming to this country from abroad falls squarely into this category.

If we are prepared to enforce sanctions for violations of intellectual property rights, it is hardly excessive to judge cooperation by other countries to stop the flow of illegal drugs. After all, not one American has died from Chinese counterfeit CDs. China White heroin, on the other hand, has killed countless of our fellow citizens and ruined the lives of tens of thousands more. This points up our obligation to uphold international standards of conduct.

Somehow, though, when it comes to the drug issue, many seem to believe that expecting good conduct is wrong. They seem to hold to the notion that it is unfair. They act as if it is unkind to expect countries to comply with international law, solemn agreements, and their own legal requirements.

Some seem to believe that it is outrageous that we also take steps to protect our national interest. Now, since many of the people who voice this latter concern are the leaders of drug producing and transit countries, we can take their complaints with a grain of salt. But the domestic critics are a different matter. To them, all I have to say is that it would be irresponsible for the United States to put the concerns and interests of other countries before those of the American people. Period.

As I said, we would be justified in certifying other countries on drug cooperation even if we did nothing at home. But we in fact do a great deal. Out of a \$16 billion counter-drug budget, less than 10 percent is spent on actions outside the United States.

Over 90 percent is devoted to domestic programs, many of these efforts to control demand. And this is just at the Federal level. States, local communities, and private organizations spend this much and a great deal more on demand reduction. Thus, we spend annually more than \$32 billion to deal with our demand problem. There is not another country in the world that devotes such resources to the problem at home.

I remind my colleagues and the critics of the certification process that the standard for certification is not unconditional success. This is true whether we are talking about Mexico or California. To get a passing grade on drug cooperation does not mean that a country has to have totally eliminated drug production or trafficking, or, for that matter, use.

It requires a good faith effort. The certification law takes into consideration the many problems with stopping drug production and transit. Thus, it is not unexpected that individuals can disagree on the results. It is not a sign of failure if the Congress and the President should disagree. Nor should such disagreements be the occasion for throwing overboard the very process we have for ensuring cooperation. And it does do this. Over the course of the certification process, we have seen more countries take the issue seriously. They do this because they are aware that we take it seriously. We have taught our own administration and other countries that cooperation on drugs is important. To now abandon the chief tool that we have is to run from our responsibilities at the first sign of unpleasantness.

Certification is not perfect. No legislative tool is. We must, however, not expect more than is realistic. The present process clearly indicates Congress' expectation that countries, including our own, will demonstrate serious commitment. That commitment requires more than pious words. It expects action and demonstrable results. Failing that, it is wholly within our right to judge and to take appropriate steps. It is also an obligation.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:23 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 16, 1997, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 15, 1997:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING OFFICER OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY IN THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT.

RICHARD W. SANDERS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE U.S. NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. HENRY C. GIFFIN, III, 0000.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 618, 624, AND 628:

To be major

ANDREW J. JORGENSEN, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE U.S. ARMY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT AS CHAPLAINS (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK (*) UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 624, 531 AND 3283:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHARLES R. BAILEY, 0000
LAWRENCE M. BARRY, 0000
DAVID E. BATES, 0000
JOHN H. BJARNASON, JR., 0000
GREGORY L. BLACK, 0000
WILLIAM B. BROOME, III, 0000
*ANDREW J. BULLARD, III, 0000
WALTER E. DREW, 0000
DANNY R. FRANKLIN, 0000
RICHARD B. GARRISON, 0000
JERRY W. GRAHAM, 0000
*JOSEPH F. HANNON, 0000
ROBERT L. HELTON, JR., 0000
JERRY O. HENDERSON, 0000
FREDERICK E. HOADLEY, 0000
KENNETH KOLENBRANDER, 0000
LAWRENCE C. KRAUSE, 0000
JAMES M. LEWIS, 0000
JAMES E. MAY, 0000
WILLIAM L. MERRIFIELD, 0000
JOHNNY W. MIMS, 0000
STEVEN E. MOON, 0000
ANDREW R. MULVANEY, 0000
TED W. NICHOLS, 0000
RICHARD L. PACE, 0000
EARL B. PAYTON, 0000
CHARLES D. REESE, 0000
CURTIS C. SCHLOSSER, 0000
WILLIAM C. SHELNUTT, 0000
LARRY S. SMEDLEY, SR., 0000
MICHAEL S. STEELE, 0000
HAROLD G. TYLER, 0000
RONALD W. WUNSCH, 0000
JOHN L. WYDEVEN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE U.S. ARMY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK (*) UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 624, 628, AND 531:

To be major

CHESSLEY R. ATCHISON, 0000
*ROBERT P. GROW, 0000
RORY H. LEWIS, 0000
MARK L. REEDER, 0000
*STEPHEN E. SCHLESS, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RICHARD L. SONGER, 0000