

group of teens after they were connected to a string of burglaries while high on K2. The local county attorney prosecuting the case stated this was an unusual crime spree. These kids were not the type who are normally seen in the criminal justice system. The county attorney stated these kids had "no prior record, good grades, athletes, so that got me wondering: is there a correlation between K2 and the crime?"

Another case in Honolulu, HI, shows police arrested a 23-year-old man after he tried to throw his girlfriend off an 11th floor balcony after he was smoking K2.

A 14-year-old boy in Missouri nearly threw himself out of a fifth story window after smoking K2. Once the teen got over his high, he denied having any suicidal tendencies. Doctors believe he was hallucinating at the time of the incident.

K2 use is also causing serious health problems and increased visits to emergency rooms.

A Louisiana teen said he became very ill after trying K2. The teen said he experienced numbness, starting at his feet and traveling all the way to his head. He was nauseous, light-headed, and was having hallucinations. The teen stated that K2 is being passed around at the school. The teen also stated that many people were trying it without fear, assuming it was safe because it was legal. I said that previously in my remarks: a legal drug, it has to be safe in kind of the attitude.

Another case has a teenager in Indiana being admitted to an emergency room with a blood pressure of 248 over 134 after testing positive for K2.

A teen in Texas became temporarily paralyzed from the waist down after smoking K2.

Another teen in Texas had a heart attack after smoking K2 but, fortunately, survived the event.

Regrettably, K2 use also has deadly consequences. I want to speak about an individual and family who suffered from a tremendously bad consequence of K2.

The picture behind me is of David Rozga. David was a recent 18-year-old Indianola, IA, high school graduate. According to his parents and friends, David was a bright, energetic, talented student who loved music, was popular, and active in his church.

David was looking forward to attending the University of Northern Iowa this fall, my alma mater. On June 6, 2010, David, along with some of his friends, smoked a package of K2 thinking it was nothing more than just having a little fun.

David and his friends purchased this product at a mall in Des Moines, after hearing about it from some college students who were home for the summer.

After smoking this product, David's friends reported that David became highly agitated and terrified. When he got home, he found a family shotgun and committed suicide 90 minutes after smoking K2.

The Indianola police believe David was under the influence of K2 at the time of his death. David's parents and many in the community who knew David were completely shocked and, obviously, saddened by this event.

As a result, the Iowa Pharmacy Board placed an emergency ban on K2 products in Iowa, which began on July 21, 2010. David's tragic death may be the first case in the United States of K2 use leading to someone's death, but, sadly, it was only the beginning.

A month after David's tragic death, police reported that a 28-year-old Middledtown, IN, mother of two passed away after smoking a lethal dose of K2. This woman's godson reported that anyone could get K2 easily because it can be sold to anyone at any price and at any time.

This last August, a recent 19-year-old Lake Highlands High School graduate in Dallas, TX, passed away after smoking K2. The medical examiner confirmed that this boy had K2 in his system at the time of his death.

These incidents throughout the country give me great concern that K2 use is a dangerous and growing problem. Twelve States, including Iowa, have acted to ban the sale and possession of the chemicals found in K2 products. Many more States, counties, and communities throughout the country have proposed bans or are in the process of banning these products.

However, a recent article in the Des Moines Register highlights the fact that some stores are working around these bans by the simple process of changing some of the chemicals and by simply relabeling the product.

So I believe it is time we have a national discussion about these dangerous substances. I hope in the coming weeks and months my colleagues will begin to take notice of this issue.

As cochairman of the Senate Drug Caucus—I cochair that with Senator FEINSTEIN from California—it is my hope we will have a hearing on this issue in the not too distant future.

It is important to fully understand the magnitude and implications of allowing these products to remain legal in the United States. It is clear the sale and use of K2 products is obviously a growing problem. People believe these products are safe because they can buy them online or at the nearest shopping mall.

We need to do a better job at educating the public and our communities about the dangers these products present. We, in fact, need to nip this problem in the bud before it grows and leads to the tragedy of more death or the tragedy of other health consequences.

I ask each of my colleagues in the Senate to join me as we explore positive actions to stem the use of K2.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY L. GREENBERG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Peggy L. Greenberg, director of the Office of Education and Training, who is retiring at the end of this month after 11 years. Peggy has been responsible for the training and development of all Senate staff in both the Washington, DC, office and all the Senate State offices. Her department offers programs in a wide variety of areas including general professional development, management and leadership development, legislative information and technical computer skills training.

After earning her undergraduate degree in nursing from Southwestern Louisiana, Ms. Greenberg moved from nursing in Louisiana to Massachusetts, where she was a pediatric nurse. She eventually became the director of nursing inservice education and later the director of education for all of Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Boston. During that time, she earned a master's degree in adult and continuing education from Boston University.

Peggy was the director of Organization Effectiveness and Performance Consulting for Med Star Physician Partners and then a director of learning and organization development for Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States. She was recognized in the Kaiser Permanente organization nationwide as a leader in the training and organization development area.

Peggy Greenberg has been a key contributor to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Senate staff. We have all benefited from her professional and personal commitment to improving every aspect of our individual and organizational development. The Senate has been fortunate to have someone with her knowledge and experience.

The Senate community will miss Peggy, and wishes her well as she enjoys long and adventurous bike rides with her husband, Brian and continues indulging her love of tap dancing.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TREE FRESNO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tree Fresno.