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Mr. Richard Cotton
1775 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Dear Mr. Cotton:

In this ~~his~~ testimony, I will address the issue of the use of MDMA as an accepted and safe medical treatment in the psychiatric practice of Dr. George Greer, M.D., based on my training, experience, and knowledge in this matter.

I am a Medical Doctor licenced to practice in my subspeciality as a Psychiatrist in the State of New Mexico. I trained as an undergraduate at Texas Tech University where I graduated with honors receiving a Bachelor of Science in Zoology. I attended Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, receiving my M.D. Degree in 1976. I then moved to New Mexico to further my subspeciality training in Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico Department of Psychiatry. I finished this program in 1980, serving as Chief Resident my final year, and embarked on a career as a Community Psychiatrist. As Medical Director of Sandoval County Human Services, Inc., a post I held for five years, I developed a program to provide mental health care to the people of a rural county in New Mexico. I also conducted psychiatric clinics in three other rural counties. For all these counties I was the only psychiatrist locally available and in the course of this work, have treated hundreds of patients of all ages and of all socio-economic and racial backgrounds. I was also instrumental in developing the non-profit Community

Mental Health programs in these counties, funded by the Department of Health and Environment of the State of New Mexico. In 1983, I acted as the expert on psychiatric care in testimony to the Department concerning the State Mental Health Programs, the needs of these programs in terms of funding and man power, and the direction the State should take in relation to providing quality psychiatric treatment in rural New Mexico counties. In the Community Programs with which I consulted, I trained and supervised Masters level therapists in providing individual, groups, and family therapy for their clients. I also evaluated patients for medication and hospitalization and treated them as required with pharmacotherapy, individual, groups and family therapy, and testified as expert witness in court for committment hearings. I also provided in-service training on various aspects of clinical psychiatry to the communities in which I worked, drawing participants from social service agencies, general hospital staff including nurses and emergency room personnel, law enforcement agencies including policemen, jailors, and the local sheriffs. In addition to this work as a Community Psychiatrist, I have been medical consultant to the department of Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration, reviewing psychiatric disability cases for the Disability Determination Unit of New Mexico, to determine medical evidence for disability compensation and whether applicants should receive compensation based on standards developed by the Social Security Administration. I am also a member of the Education, Training, and Service Committee of the Human Resource Development Program, Mental Health Bureau.

This committee reports to the State Bureau responsible for funding and maintaining standards for Community Mental Health programs, and provides input concerning manpower issues in mental health throughout the State. I am a Clinical Assistant Professor of the University of New Mexico Department of Psychiatry, a General Member of the American Psychiatric Association and the New Mexico Psychiatric Association.

I am currently in the process of changing the direction of my career to a focus on Private Psychiatric Practice. Since July 1984, I have been a member of the Medical Staff at Vista Sandia Psychiatric Hospital in Albuquerque, the oldest and largest private in-patient facility in New Mexico, and have a busy in-patient and out-patient practice. I serve as Chairman of the Therapeutics Committee, establishing standards of psychiatric care in this not-for-profit psychiatric hospital. I also regularly provide training to community lay people and para-professionals, nurses and mental health workers through this hospital's Community Education and Research Department.

In addition, I am a member of the Medical Staff of Heights Psychiatric Hospital in Albuquerque, a recently established facility, where I am a member of the Therapeutics Committee and the Adult/Young Adult program committee. I am focusing on the treatment of seriously disturbed adolescents in an in-patient setting here.

In summary, during the nine years of practicing Psychiatry in New Mexico, I have become well acquainted with the Academic Community Rural and Private Practice Standards of Psychiatric evaluation and treatment. I have been involved at all levels

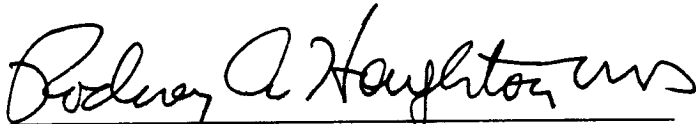
of developing and maintaining quality medical treatment of psychiatric patients in this State -- in the political and government agency area, in the grass roots community level and in the private profitable and not-for-profit hospitals.

I have as friends, teachers, and colleagues, psychiatrists from the University setting, including Dr. Robert Kellner, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chairman and Director of Research for the Department of Psychiatry. He is a well known clinical researcher publishing many papers in the field of psychopharmacology. We have consulted on cases and he has supervised me on a research case study involving the use of the investigational drug Pimozide. From this association I became familiar with research criteria, protocols, and ethical issues involving humans in research. This training and experience have provided me with a sound basis for serving as a member of Dr. Greer's Peer Review Committee for his research into the clinical uses of MDMA. I have been involved with him since he began the study as a consultant reviewing and offering suggestions on his protocol, informed consent forms, patient selection, and the before and after session questionnaire. I also participated as a subject in his research with MDMA from which he wrote the paper "MDMA, A New Psychotropic Compound and Its Effects in Humans". I am consequently, totally familiar with Dr. Greer's use of MDMA in his research and personally familiar with its effects as prescribed under Dr. Greer's medical supervision.

In my expert opinion, as one who is familiar with the accepted standards of Psychiatric Practice in New Mexico, indeed, having

established many of those standards for five rural communities and Community Programs throughout the State, I believe Dr. Greer's use of MDMA is an accepted and safe medical practice. I base this opinion not only on my own experience and what I believe to be acceptable, but also on my conversations with teachers and colleagues about his work. I also judge that Dr. Greer's research design for studying MDMA is sound and follows the basic rules of scientific observation and documentation. His work with patients has shown the safety of the MDMA therapy as well as the positive benefits which can be derived from its use under strict medical supervision.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 29th day of April 1985 in Placitas, New Mexico.



Rodney A. Houghton, M.D.