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23 August 1984

Francis Mullen
DEA ADMINISTRATION
1405 1 St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Francis Mullen,


This letter is written in response to the announcement that MDMA has been proposed for scheduling. I wish to say that I would regard the scheduling of this drug as a scientific calamity.

On the basis of a review of the literature concerning the uses of this drug in psychotherapy, and on the basis of reports from highly-respected colleagues who have experimented with MDMA as an adjunct to psychotherapy, I implore you to leave the door open to further research, exploration, and study in this area--by opposing any rulings that would restrict the use of MDMA such that scientific investigators and psychotherapists would no longer have free and uncomplicated access.

If the DEA schedules the drug such that complex involvement with the administration is required on the part of researchers and psychotherapists, most of them--most of us--will simply withdraw: such involvement is incompatible with the spirit of our work. And the real victims, in such a case, will be clients or patients who could otherwise have benefitted.

Leave us free. Everyone will be the benefactor.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Branden, Ph.D.

NB/tc