

TCOM

August 29, 1984

Administrator DEA
1405 I Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20537

Attn: DEA Federal Register Representative

Dear Sirs:

It has recently come to my attention that the DEA intends to severely restrict investigation and access to the drug known as MDMA (3,4-METHYLENE-DIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE). I have been following the literature regarding this particular compound, and I am aware that there may be some confusion with a drug which has been abused in the past known as MDA; however, I believe this confusion has contributed to the unfavorable action about to be taken with regard to MDMA. Review of the literature suggests that this latter compound may be extremely valuable in several areas of medical and/or psychological use and that further investigation should certainly be undertaken before the drug is made illegal.

I have reviewed the currently available information on MDMA, and it certainly seems as if this may be a very exciting new chemical in a search for agents that are active and helpful in the treatment of disorders of cognition, as well as interpersonal relationship therapy. Substances currently available, which are of help in these areas, are extremely rare, and in view of the very limited evidence for toxicity I feel that further study and testing is necessary before any final determination as to the status of this compound is made.

I hope you will reconsider scheduling MDMA and least defer taking action until the further scientific studies can be made. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joel Alter, DO, FACOS
Professor of Surgery
Vice Chairman
Department of Surgery
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

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