

ED 1200

Kelly Peaslee

Good afternoon Representatives,

Thank you for bringing this bill forward.

My daughter when she was 24 working for a man much older who was controlling & abusive, he introduced her to nitrous oxide, and she had become addicted to it. My daughter was an active and very bright young woman and as her family & friends witnessed her mental state decline tremendously. After an exhausting amount of time trying to get her help through the system she was finally committed to a mental hospital. My husband and I attended meetings regarding her well-being and we were told she had suffered brain damage due to the nitrous oxide and they were not sure how much of her mental state would come back but because she was young, they were hopeful. We are seeing improvements, but she still has some issues to this day. I would not want any other family to have to endure the pain of what this substance does to a person.

****I would also like to show you one of these canisters if possible that my daughter was using. They are the size of an oxygen tank, and I think seeing it will give you an idea that this is serious problem and needs attention now!**

Our mental health system is not set up to support the needs of our communities and to add this additive drug to the list of patients needing a bed because of the effects is a shame. We can make a change to prevent more young people from falling victim to this brain-damaging drug.

In researching this product, it seems it is Federally banned but not by our state. With all of the new popup marijuana shops & smoke shops it is making this product very available to young adults who are already in a mental health crisis.

I have a question if nitrous oxide is administered along with oxygen for safety and highly regulated in the medical field, why is this allowed to be purchased recreationally?

How can we allow a potentially brain-damaging product to be purchased when there is no way to monitor the amounts being used or what's considered safe and not safe?

Thank you for this opportunity!

More than 13 million Americans have misused nitrous oxide in their lifetimes, according to the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The number of deaths attributed to nitrous oxide poisoning rose by more than 110% between 2019 and 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2025-04-nitrous-oxide-misuse-deaths.html>



Colorful image of nitrous oxide – tailored to catch younger audiences' eyes.

Its recreational use poses serious risks to mental health and overall well-being, including potential for depression, psychosis, and memory loss.

Nitrous Oxide abuse can produce a series of symptoms:

- Personality Changes
- Emotion disorders (anxiety, depression, mania)
- Impulsive and aggressive behaviors
- Halluicinations, delusions and other psychotic symptoms