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To Angie Lake Committee Clerk,

Please accept this letter in support for two bills currently being discussed in the senate and congress of the State of Michigan regarding synthetic drugs and the government's response to this quickly growing Menace. House Bill 5338 and Senate Bill 789 are desperately needed by law enforcement to be able to address the issue of synthetic drugs in our neighborhoods and put a stop to this new public menace.

In January of 2011, My department and surrounding agencies started to come into contact with individuals who were obviously under the influence of some type of substance. These individuals were often violent and showed signs of confusion, hallucinations, and paranoia. The individuals were more often very hard to deal with and often required a trip to our emergency room for treatment. Most of the time the common denominator in these cases was that the individual advised us that they all were experiencing these symptoms from using a product called White Rush i.e. bath salts.

White Rush was a product brought to our area by the owner of a local head shop. The amount of money reported he made on selling the product was impressive and was his motivation for selling the substance from his store. Overnight it seemed we were dealing with individuals strung out on White Rush and in almost 24 years of police work I had never saw a new drug hit the street like White Rush did and spread problems for law enforcement so fast. One individual who is a known drug user advised be that he would step over heroin to use White Rush because of the high it he received from it. Emergency room visits also erupted at the same time as did other social services needed to address the problems this synthetic drug caused. Overdoses occurred and at least two deaths were linked to the use of synthetic drugs

Law Enforcements tools to combat synthetic drugs are limited. Officers have no laws in effect to be able to take timely action against the distribution of synthetic drugs and the processes for enacting new laws are long and cumbersome. Often, when a drug is scheduled, these synthetic chemists change the formula so the controlled substance is no longer present. These chemists are able to adapt and respond quickly to new laws and changes where as law makers and law enforcement cant.

SB 789 or HB 5338 would be great steps in enabling law enforcement to fight this public danger. We strongly encourage you to support these bills.

Respectfully,

Detective Captain Gordon J. Warchock  
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