

Greetings, I'd like to submit the following regarding the proposed reclassification of Alkyl Nitrites. I am a gay man in my late 40s and I have been using alkyl nitrites for 30 years.

(a) the risks and benefits of use of the substance;

The benefits are that I can engage much more easily as the receptive partner in anal sex. This is my primary sexual nature. Without the use of "poppers" I can find being penetrated painful and uncomfortable, but the use of a little alkyl nitrites makes the experience enjoyable.

The risks are negligible for most types of poppers. It isn't addictive or psychoactive, and outside of facilitating easier anal sex there is little use for it. It isn't like speed or heroin, where the drug itself is addictive and taken for its own sake.

It really doesn't seem fair that straight men can be allowed viagra or other therapies to help with their sexual difficulties, yet a certain group of gay men are treated as if their sexuality doesn't matter. It is quite depressing to have my sexual life discounted and casually ruined by people who don't understand the important role poppers play in helping some gay men have a satisfying sexual life.

(b) the purposes for which the substance is used, and the extent of use;

As said above, the substance is used to ease anal sex for a lot of gay men.

(c) the toxicity of the substance;

People have been using these alkyl nitrites for decades. Probably 50 years at least. I myself have used it for 30 years. When taking into account the large number of gay men who have been using poppers, and the long time period over which has been used, negative health outcomes attributable to alkyl nitrites are practically nil. Banning it makes no sense when there isn't any problem.

(d) the dosage, formulation, labeling, packaging and presentation of the substance;

At most, perhaps a warning label could be added, but again, the long history of the usage of alkyl nitrites without any significant negative health outcomes (relative to the number of people who have used it and how long it has been in use) shows that there isn't any problem as things are.

Alkyl nitrites are typically sold at sex shops, and this works fine. Staff are able to advise on usage if customers have any questions.

Banning or restricting alkyl nitrites is a solution for a problem that doesn't exist.

(e) the potential for abuse of the substance;

As stated above, there is barely any potential for abuse. Outside of its usage to facilitate easier receptive anal sex for (mostly) gay men, it really doesn't have much potential as a "fun" drug.

There is no psychoactive effect. It wears off very quickly and at best makes you feel slightly dizzy.

People who want to abuse drugs will almost certainly seek other drugs.

(f) any other matters that necessary to protect public health.

It simply isn't true that alkyl nitrites ("Poppers") have no therapeutic value. They have a great deal of therapeutic value to people such as myself who's sexuality is primarily that of a passive/receptive gay man. It is grossly unfair to simply dismiss this therapeutic value just because it applies to gay men.

They have been used for decades by large number of people without any problems. Suddenly banning alkyl nitrites or making them more difficult to access makes no sense, because there was no public health issue that needed addressing in the first place.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I really hope you understand that gay men

should have the same right to sexual therapeutic goods to enable them a satisfying sex life, just as much as straight men do.