

To whom it may concern,

January 12th 2019

because it concerns me.

My name is [REDACTED] I am 66 years old and I began using poppers when I was 23 years old. That is 43 years. I have used them on a regular basis for those 43 years consuming approximately one small bottle every four to six weeks. I calculated that is an average of 372 bottles poppers consumed in my life time. Why do I use them? I am a passive homosexual. I use them when I am being penetrated by a penis. I was introduced to them by a man with a 10 inch penis and sodomy was uncomfortable and it hurt. I use poppers which to me, relaxed my muscles allowing me to be penetrated and to enjoy sex. I have never, ever once been harmed by my prolific use of poppers. There was a time when the skin would be slightly burning on my nose and that would be almost insignificant, merely noticeable and completely harmless. A simple little bit of hand cream rubbed on my nose before use stops this.

I wish to address the points required for a submission.

1. There are absolutely no risks that I have encountered in 43 years of prolific use. The benefits are that I can accept penetration and enjoy sodomy. After inhalation the effects are extremely short lasting. I am aware of many people similar to myself who use poppers for penetrative sex. Not once have I ever heard or seen poppers be used as a party drug. If it was such, how many submissions have been received by heterosexuals? In my opinion to say such a thing is bigoted opinion. The benefit is for penetrative homosexual sex. The symptoms of tachycardia hypotension headache dizziness nausea and syncope I have never experienced and I have consumed probably 400 bottles of poppers in my lifetime. There is a slight flushing of redness of the skin when I use them. It is nothing. I had read in the submission that there were a substantial number of people who had presented themselves to Hospital emergency departments. There are more people that present themselves at hospital emergency departments because they think there is something wrong with their blood pressure because they have used faulty home blood pressure monitors. I am dismayed at that statistic being used as of only the number of people who had actually been harmed by the inhalation of poppers is of importance. How many people have been actually harmed by the inhalation of poppers? I'm going to suggest none, merely by inhalation. Swallow maybe, thrown in an eye, maybe! The benefits I have received from the use of poppers are substantial. I have never, not once, experienced any problems from use. Unfortunately I was born with a desire to have sex with men and do not have a vagina and do not lubricate and this chemical allows me to enjoy homosexual sex. I am not a promiscuous man. I had a 27 year relationship with one man followed by a 6 year relationship with another. My partners did not use poppers. My partners had no problem with me using them. The benefit was that my partner could also enjoy better sex without fearing that I would bleed or be harmed internally, same for me. They had their way with me so much easier. Poppers do not present a high risk of dependency. Poppers present absolutely no risk of dependency. There were times in my life when they could not be purchased for lengthy periods. There are no addictive symptoms. If they were unable to be purchased, tough luck. I would put them in a same class as aspirin for dependency. If I had a headache and couldn't get aspirin, tough luck. To suggest that poppers are addictive and a drug of dependency is nonsense. How can something that has therapeutic value for sodomy between homosexuals that has so many benefits be considered abuse or misuse or illicit use? The proposal put forward seems to me to be bigoted opinion and not based on clinical statistics or facts. The evidence for banning, cynical, backed up by generalisations. No substantive real evidence.

I am aware that a substantial number of homosexual men use poppers and use them only for sex. I am dismayed that so many men in my community would be unaware of the current proposals to prevent

their use of poppers. I am going to suggest a conservative figure based on my personal experience of 1 in 10 men do use poppers. They have been available to purchase for all of my 66 years. I would also like to suggest that the number of men who do not engage in sodomy at all is 3 in 10 so they don't even need them.

3. Toxicity and dosage. It is not toxic. I have never heard of it being toxic. Unless I imagine somebody drank them or threw the liquid in their eye. The people that have been manufacturing these products for what? 50 years or plus, have got the dosage right, absolutely right!!!

4. Every bottle I have ever purchased clearly labels, "do not inhale" it is impossible not to read. Anyone who does inhale, does, because somebody else introduces them to how to use it. It would not be possible for someone to pick up a bottle and not read the directions, which states clearly, "do not inhale". In order to use the product they would have to have the experience and wisdom of someone who already knew how to use this beneficial product. They are sold in sex shops. Anyone who was not familiar would not pick up the product and inhale it, never, ever. Has anyone considered that heterosexuals hardly use poppers? If it is alleged that this drug is liable for abuse and dependency I doubt that there would be one submission from a heterosexual saying please, please. So clearly these bad allegations don't apply to heterosexuals because they don't use them because they have no benefits to heterosexuals. That is something to consider strongly. You won't find heterosexuals using them as party drugs or sex or anything. If the allegations were true, straight people would embrace poppers big time and they don't. The only benefit is for homosexual sex! So, the question is, do heterosexual submissions outnumber homosexual submission twenty times?? Must be 20 x, if the claims were true!!!

5. This product is a muscle relaxant for sodomy. It is not a party drug. It is not addictive causing withdrawal symptoms and does not have an addictive desire to continue use. Poppers have no other benefits apart from penetrative sodomy. The effects are very, very, very, short lived.

6. I cannot understand why anyone would say it has an impact on public health. How can it have an impact on public health?. Where are the statistics? I did not read them in the proposal, what I read was opinion. As I mentioned those presenting at public hospitals in emergency departments, those numbers are for financial budgets. People get concerned perhaps and inquire of doctors. Again I would ask that the number of people who have actually been harmed critically, severely, long term, short term, by inhalation, be stated. We do not ban home blood pressure monitors because people present at hospitals because of faulty monitors.

House hold Bleach is clearly labelled with warnings. I do not go to my kitchen and throw it in my eye. I do not drink it, therefore I do not have an impact on public health, nor have I ever impacted when I do poppers. And I have never heard of anybody in the millions and millions and millions of times homosexual men must have used these, of going to emergency departments from "inhalation". Sadly someone may hurt themselves by other methods. We should not ban poppers because of the most unfortunate experience of a small handful of people or unsubstantiated generalized allegations. I feel that the whole proposal, is based on cynicism & homophobia, because I believe that the actual number of people who have been hurt long-term or substantially by poppers, one could count on one hand. Please show actual evidence to the contrary. That is not to say, that people are not cautious. I myself presented at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for what I thought might be blood poisoning. I was told not to worry, to visit my doctor, and that it was a venous varicose vein that had erupted. I suppose that is a statistic for something. I feel outraged that what has been a benefit to me my whole life is proposed to be made unavailable. I would ask that those men who have never had a 10" penis thrust up their anus consider if they might like something that would make it more comfortable? This is, in all respects a harmless chemical with significant benefits to homosexual men.