



March 3, 2008

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Republican
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
644 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Attn: David Schmickel

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S. 877, "Controlling the Abuse of Prescriptions Act of 2007," which amends the Controlled Substances Act to add human growth hormone to schedule III. The Endocrine Society, representing more than 14,000 physicians and scientists in the field of endocrinology, would like to encourage the Senate to take a deliberative approach to this issue. We request that the Senate urge the Drug Enforcement Agency and Food and Drug Administration to take up the issue of how to regulate human growth hormone and allow for a full analysis of the potential effects on patients.

Alan Rogol, Endocrine Society member and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Virginia and Indiana University of Medicine, testified during a February 12, 2008 hearing of the House Government Reform Committee. During his testimony, he stated that human growth hormone has a legitimate clinical use for the treatment of a number of medical conditions, most frequently to promote linear growth in short children. The implications of adding human growth hormone to the list of schedule III controlled substances could have potentially life-threatening implications for children's health. Any disruption in supply that may be a result of such a change may result in hypoglycemia in infants and children with hypopituitarism, which could lead to brain damage. Further implications of such a change for patients are unknown. For instance, will the change require monthly visits to a physician in order to obtain a refill? Many patients live far from the nearest endocrinologist, and requiring any extra trips to their physician would place an undue physical and financial burden on patients.

While the Society believes that human growth hormone should only be used for clinically-approved treatments, we urge you to consider the implications of a change to schedule III and ensure that there are no unintended barriers to its use by physicians and patients. If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact Janet Kreizman, Senior Director, Government & Public Affairs at jkreizman@endo-society.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Hunt
Executive Director and CEO
The Endocrine Society