



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Drug Abuse
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

March 27, 1996

Mr. Jon Gettman
Route 1, Box 26
Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

Dear Mr. Gettman:

Your October 20 letter to Secretary Donna Shalala regarding the Triennial Report to Congress on Drug Abuse and Drug Abuse Research and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsibilities under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) was referred to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and referred by SAMHSA to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health, for response. We apologize for the delay in responding.

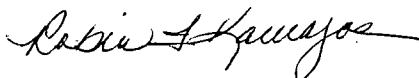
NIDA absolutely and wholeheartedly understands and supports the need for, and the importance of, providing Congress and others with timely and relevant information on the progress being made on drug abuse and addiction research. Specifically with regard to the Triennial Report to Congress on Drug Abuse and Drug Abuse Research, we have extended to the Congress our sincere apology for the unintentional delay in its issuance. The Department takes most seriously its commitment to honoring the requirement for this legislatively mandated report. This report objectively describes known data and findings which had occurred during the 3 years subsequent to the period of the last report. We expect that the report should be released in the near future.

Concerning your inquiry on the procedures HHS uses to conduct medical and scientific evaluations under the CSA, you should know that, in response to a formal request from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Department considers the 8 factors determinative of control set forth under Section 811(c) of the CSA. The Department then forwards findings and recommendations to DEA in accord with section 812 of the CSA. NIDA participates in this review and analysis. For example, NIDA supports a significant amount of research on marijuana which is reviewed periodically by scientists and clinical practitioners, through drug abuse advisory panels and workgroups. The results of NIDA-supported research are often considered in developing the Department's findings and recommendations on drug scheduling.

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I hope that this information is helpful. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin I. Kawazoe".

Robin I. Kawazoe
Acting Director
Office of Science Policy
and Communications