



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

August 22, 2014

Dear Citizens of New Hampshire,

In recent weeks, more than 45 people in New Hampshire, mostly in the Manchester area, have been seen by medical professionals with potentially serious medical reactions from ingesting a synthetic drug marketed as "Smacked." Due to the threat posed by these products to the health and safety of our citizens, I declared a State of Emergency on August 14th in order to quickly stop the sale of this dangerous substance and request the voluntary removal of other products commonly referred to as "spice." I am happy to say that most stores have voluntarily acted to remove "Smacked" from sale.

This synthetic drug, "Smacked," is only one of many synthetic drugs that pose a serious risk to public health and safety. Some of these synthetic drugs are sold as herbal incense, potpourri, and bath salts in colorful packaging and in a variety of retail settings. They are generally manufactured in small, clandestine laboratories by amateur chemists and are not tested by the FDA or approved for distribution or human consumption.

Synthetic drugs are ingested a number of ways, including smoking, brewing into a tea, swallowing or by injection. Some clinical signs and symptoms include anxiety and panic attacks, elevated blood pressure and heart rate, seizures, kidney failure, heart attack, and sudden death. Sleepiness, aggressive or violent behavior, agitation, and confusion have also been cited by emergency room physicians.

It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to combat the use of synthetic drugs and the threat that they pose to public health and safety. As a result, I asked the Department of Health and Human Services to spearhead a public awareness effort – in conjunction with their contracted regional public health networks – to educate Granite Staters about the serious threat and harm posed by the use of synthetic drugs. I want to thank you in advance for participating in this important effort.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margie H" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor