

Titus, Sandra L

From: ciindy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2001 8:12 AM
To: Titus, Sandra L
Subject: fda hearing statement

----- at

My name is Cindy Pekarick, and I would like to describe how ghb analogs killed my daughter.

In **October of 1998**, my daughter Nicole, a college student, waitress, and gym enthusiast met a new boyfriend who

introduced her to a product called "Renewtrient. In **November** she researched the product via Internet and received

only positive information. She could take it before bedtime and wake up in only four hours feeling refreshed, well-rested, and all

her muscles would be completely recovered and ready for another workout. In **December** I found out she was taking this

supplement, didn't believe all the promises made by the advertisers, arguments ensued and she promised she wouldn't drink it

anymore. She was away at school from mid-January until April.

By **April**, she returned home. She became behind in all her bills. She was bruised on her legs

and arms. She stopped attending classes, and kept losing her keys, wallet, and her pager. In May I discovered she had

essentially "dropped out of school".

By **June**, I could see mild changes in Nicole's behavior. She began taking "power naps" as she called them. She

would sleep for 3 hours in the middle of the day and get up at 4 and go to work. She continued losing things and having

difficulty paying her bills. I searched her room and car but found no evidence of substance abuse.

By **July**, my younger daughter, Noelle informed me that Nicole was having problems. She said, "Mom, she isn't taking

anything bad or illegal. She takes a muscle supplement that doesn't agree with her. Sometimes she has bad

reactions and she doesn't even know it. She embarrasses herself and me when she acts wierd, then she goes to sleep.

When she wakes up she never remembers anything that she did. She started taking it once in a while so she

6/4/01

could go to sleep right away when she got home from work, then she started using it more often. It disgusts me to see her

out of control." It was at this time I discovered Nicole had been taking ghb analogs all along, since November. I began my

quest for information regarding Renewtrient, Revivarent, and Invigorate, which my younger daughter claimed Nicole took.

In **August**, Nicole was found having a seizure in a public bathroom. She had urinated and defecated on herself while

pulling at her clothes and flailing her arms. She was rushed to the hospital where we arrived to see her unconscious,

intubated, with her arms, legs, and waist strapped to the bed. They claimed her seizure was violent, and she barely had a

pulse when they found her. It was at this time that I knew my daughter was addicted to whatever she was taking. There is

absolutely no other reason why a young, bright, healthy woman would take a supplement that was harmful. We told them

what we thought she had taken, but they didn't have a test for it. I begged the doctors to transfer her to a treatment center

for chemical dependency, but they couldn't do it without the patient's permission. She was clueless as to why she was

hospitalized. She had no recall of anything that happened to her. In fact, she wanted to know where her clothes were. She was

discharged, but began psychological counseling a few days later.

In September, Nicole, sweating profusely, with a red face and shaking hands while crying said, "Mom, I have to talk to

you. I'm really scared. I have a problem. I can't stop drinking it." I stood up, wrapped my arms around her and hugged her

as hard as I could. I told her that she was on her way to getting better. That acknowledging this "g" had a hold on her was

a step in healing. I assured her we would find a treatment center as soon as possible and that everything would be ok.

On Monday morning, on our way to the treatment center, Nicole refused to go. She claimed the "g" wasn't addictive,

that she did research and she was just having reactions to it. She said she was now in control of her life and future. She

remained in counseling and by the end of September, Nicole had applied, transferred, and was accepted at the university.

She was so excited, that she stopped at my school on her way home to tell me that she would start classes in January. Things seemed OK on the surface, but she was hiding tremors, hallucinations, and insomnia. She went days without sleeping, but never told me.

On October 3, 1999 around 2 PM, she said she needed to take a nap before she went to work since she hadn't slept

the night before. She set the alarm for 4 PM, but she would never hear it. She was in her final sleep. My firstborn child

was found in bed, blue about 6 PM. We found a bottle of Jolt in the trunk of her car. The autopsy revealed she had gbl and

ghb in her system at the time of death. No other chemicals were found.

Nicole was an honor student while captain of two varsity teams and she belonged to a ballet company. She graduated

3rd in her high school class, and was both a Bloustein and a Garden State Scholar. For her undergraduate studies she

majored in biology, with the plan to major in engineering for her masters degree. Her ultimate goal was to become a bio-

medical engineer. She wanted to be able to design body parts to help extend people's lives. She understood that to

function well, one had to be healthy. She was a loving, sensitive, caring, intelligent, beautiful, funny, witty, and charming

young lady. Her only fault was that she was naive.