

The Truth  *About Health*

RITALIN DRUG COMPANY MAY BE PUTTING PROFITS AHEAD OF SAFETY

Vol. 1 Issue 48

Government officials are questioning the relationship between the maker of the drug Ritalin and a high-profile parent advocacy group called Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD).

The drug company (Ciba) admits to funding a portion of CHADD's \$2 million budget. This was revealed after a year long investigation. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration discovered \$1 million in funding, growing from \$100,000 in 1991 to \$398,000 in 1994.

According to documents, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration fears the financial relationship is "not well-known by the public." They are especially concerned about CHADD's recent lobbying efforts to reclassify Ritalin. At present, the stimulant is subject to strict prescription guidelines, in the same category as amphetamines and morphine.

Reclassification would make it cheaper and more accessible.

Is Ciba funding CHADD to help get Ritalin reclassified?

That is the concern of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. A reclassification could help skyrocket Ciba's profits. According to Gene Haislip, the Drug Enforcement Administration's head of diversion control: "A lot of people don't know Ritalin is like cocaine...It can be very dangerous and must be treated with respect."

Experts are worried about emerging evidence of widespread abuse and illicit trafficking of the stimulant.

SOURCE: USA Today, Date of publication not available.