

16574 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Sidney M. Wolfe, M.D. and)
Public Citizen Health)
Research Group)

Petitioners

TO: Honorable Griffin Bell
Attorney General of the United States; and

Honorable Peter Bensinger, Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice

PETITION REQUESTING TRANSFER OF THE NARCOTIC DEXTROPROPOXYPHENE
(DARVON) AND ITS SALTS FROM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SCHEDULE
IV TO SCHEDULE II.

I. PETITIONERS

Petitioner Sidney Wolfe is a medical doctor licensed to practice in Washington, DC.

Petitioner Public Citizen Health Research Group is a Washington-based, non-profit organization engaged in public interest research on health issues, including drug abuse.

II. AUTHORITY FOR PETITIONERS

Petitioners' authority to submit this petition derives from the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 811(a), and the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 553(e).

III. THE CASE

In 1977 the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) found that the widespread abuse of dextropropoxyphene (Darvon) justified its inclusion in Schedule IV of the Controlled Substances Act. Despite the restrictions which Schedule IV places on the prescription of dextropropoxyphene, this drug continues to be widely prescribed and abused. Petitioners contend that in order to curb such abuse dextropropoxyphene must be subjected to the stringent controls of Schedule II.