

**Reese, Cicely**

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**From:** Lois Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2005 1:02 PM  
**To:** Reese, Cicely  
**Cc:** Dockets, FDA  
**Subject:** Medicated Patch - Ms. Reece/Sheila Matthews Agreement

Dear Ms. Reece,

Thank you for taking the time and effort to allow those of us who object to the use of methylphenidate in a patch form for the treatment of ADD. Without speaking to the issue of whether or not ADD is a *real* and proven mental illness, I would like to comment on the use of psychotropics in the treatment of mental illness and its prevalence in both this country's educational system and throughout society in general. Whether your local doctor, or the friendly high school counselor, many of these "concerned" individuals choose to solve what appears to be a difficulty to concentrate by the blanket use of pharmaceuticals to "correct" behavior which the individual(s) in question deems undesirable. I have first hand experience of this "solution" on my niece, who at 18 told her school counselor that she felt under a great deal of stress. She was then prescribed Zoloft at 18! Does anyone see the irrationality of this? Is it possible to step back and see the downward trend our handling of youth's life problems has taken? My nephew who is now 30 has been on a Zoloft for the past six years. Prescribing drugs for mental illness has become the modern religion of society. I have watched my nephew turn from a bright, eager, interested individual, who suffered from a bit of shyness to a near vegetable state. He is a good 50 pounds overweight, watches television most of his days, accepts the government dole, takes the prescribed medicine and cashes his disability checks. He is part of the system. The system that is not just ineffective, but pernicious--damaging the very life it seeks to extend. Why do we allow this to continue?

My own brother has been a part of this same system since the age of 18. He lives in a halfway house in Pasadena California. He is now 57 years old. He has never made it back into society. When I suggested to my brother's psychiatrist that he be weaned off his "medicine" I received the emphatic response *"there is no cure for mental illness. Your brother will never be off this medication."*

Let's stop the senseless drugging of individuals and look to other methods of healing and treatment. I thoroughly object to the "convenience" of a medicated patch to be used on our children! Consider the "cure" akin to using chemotherapy for cancer. There is only a damping down of an individual's life force to apathetic oblivion.

Thank you for taking the time to read my views. I appreciate your concern over this matter and hope to hear that this method has been stopped at the door.

Sincerely,

Lois P. Jones

12/1/2005