

**AP285**

**4 July 2005**

## **MP RENEWS CALL FOR WARNING SYMBOL ON MEDICATION**

MPs will hear tomorrow (5 July) a renewed call for high-visibility warning symbols to be placed on medicines which can seriously impair judgement and lead to accidents.

The Pharmaceutical Labelling (Warning of Cognitive Function Impairment) Bill will be given its first reading in the House of Commons during this parliamentary session by Andrew Dismore MP. The bill was first introduced in February, following calls from the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) for a red triangle symbol to be placed on 'psychoactive' medicines (which directly affect the brain) to warn people who use them that they can have the same impact on their judgement as taking alcohol.

"We are delighted that this important issue is still on the agenda," said APIL president Allan Gore QC. "This bill has APIL's full support – most people are completely unaware that these commonly-used medicines contain hidden dangers.

"If someone is taking these drugs and operating machinery or driving, the combined effects could cause a serious injury or worse. A clear warning symbol on the packaging would alert people to the dangers and could mean the difference between life and death."

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**Note to editors:** Background information is available on request. Please contact:

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