

## ***Save Raves: The RAVE Act***

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[This is a transcript from a recent edition of The Frequency Mutineers, show date indicated in brackets.]

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On June 18th, 2002, Senator Joseph Biden and Senator Charles introduced the RAVE Act into United States Congress. Later, Senators Orrin Hatch, Joseph Lieberman, and Strom Thurmond signed on as co-sponsors, and together, they pushed this threatening piece of legislation into the Senate. The RAVE (or Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy) Act, was intended to target the illegal use of MDMA, also known as ecstasy, as well as other illegal drugs. However, the bill was intensely flawed, as it targeted *innocent* music promoters, venue managers, and land owners. Some of the consequences of simply *affiliating* with electronic dance music include: up to a \$500,000 fine or 20 years of imprisonment or seizure of property. These fines and punishments could be imposed on promoters, venue managers, and land owners because of the simple presence of bottled water or glow sticks.

Luckily, electronic dance music music scene participants worldwide responded with tens of thousands of letters, as well as multiple demonstrations and protests. Because of these strong efforts by **many** different organizations, the RAVE Act was stopped in Congress, protecting innocent business people involved in the electronic dance music scene. A list of just a *few* of the organizations that helped stop the RAVE Act include: Dance Safe, Electronic Music Defense & Education Fund, and the Drug Policy Alliance.

I regret to inform you that a very similar Act was passed in 2003. More information on this act will be provided next week.