

of laetrile has neither been conclusively established nor definitely rejected largely because the FDA has blocked the testing of laetrile on humans. In 1970, the FDA denied a request to conduct laetrile tests on volunteer humans. Judge Bohanon, who was connected with the Rutherford case in Oklahoma in federal district court confirms this in his opinion in which he states, "The current debate is fierce. The issue appears largely unresolved as to laetrile's true effectiveness in large part because the FDA has prevented adequate testing on humans. The opponents of laetrile have little firsthand knowledge of its effect on humans." Judge Bohanon also stated, "While the record reveals an impressive consensus among the nation's large medical and cancer fighting institutions as to laetrile's effectiveness, a disconcerting effect of actual experience with the substance by such detractors is revealed. Some tests, although disputed, have shown laetrile to be effective in treating tumors in test animals. Some of these tests were conducted by Dr. Suglura at the Sloan-Kettering Institute. Although Sloan-Kettering later disputed Suglura's test, he nevertheless stated the following: 'It is still my belief that laetrile cures metamorphosis, I think.'" Further, Dr. Harold Manner of Loyola University testified at the LB 382 hearings on March 5th concerning his recent tests demonstrating the effectiveness of laetrile in treating tumors in test animals. He used 550 animals and concluded that he got substantial regression of tumors with enzymes. Many proponents of laetrile could by no stretch of the imagination be considered quacks. Consider some of Judge Bohanon's comments which merit repetition here. "The advocates of laetrile's use in cancer treatment include many highly educated and prominent doctors throughout the United States and the scientists who are familiar and have practical experience with the substance vastly exceeds that of their detractors. To deem such quackery distorts the serious issues posed by laetrile's prominence and requires disregarding considerable expertise mustered on the drug's behalf." I have a list here of the scientists and doctors and I am not going to go through them because they are too lengthy but I would be able to give these out to each and every member of the Legislature if they so desire. By arguing that laetrile is ineffective, laetrile opponents are ignoring the placebo effect. Even if one were to concede for the sake of argument that laetrile is not effective in a strict medical sense, it still might rise to allow its use because of the placebo effect. The healing effect accompanying the psychological uplift and the renewed sense of hope would often attend the administration of a substance in which a patient strongly believes. The record