

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear President Trump,

We write to urge you to oppose rescheduling marijuana, a harmful drug that is worsening our nation's addiction crisis. **Reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule III drug will send the wrong message to America's children, enable drug cartels, and make our roads more dangerous.**

The Biden Administration rescheduling decision was wrong. Rather than following the science, the Biden White House tried to expand the use of an addictive drug for partisan gain. Contrary to the marijuana industry's assertion that rescheduling will result in more research, the U.S. has already conducted research for decades on this drug. Congress even passed a bipartisan law to expand marijuana research while keeping the drug in Schedule I.¹

Schedule I drugs are addictive and have no medical value. Marijuana fits squarely into this category. According to a recently published fifteen-year review of medical research, marijuana has no real medical value, and 30% of medical marijuana users have an addiction to the drug.² Reclassifying marijuana under Schedule III means that the drug has a mild to moderate potential for abuse and some accepted medical value. Not only is this wrong, but it sends a terrible message to youth. Since 2020, youth began using high-potency marijuana products at record highs.³ Rescheduling tells our youth that marijuana use is acceptable and safe, a dangerous falsehood that will sink us deeper into our country's drug crisis.

Americans are catching up to the harms of marijuana. Last month, Gallup found that GOP support for legalization fell thirteen points from 2024 to 2025 (from 53% to 40%).⁴ According to another Gallup survey,

¹ Text - H.R.8454 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act, H.R.8454, 117th Cong. (2022), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8454/text>.

² Hsu M, Shah A, Jordan A, Gold MS, Hill KP. "Therapeutic Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: A Review." *JAMA*. Published online November 26, 2025. doi:10.1001/jama.2025.19433

³ Miech, R. A., Johnston, L. D., Patrick, M. E., & O'Malley, P. M. (2025). "Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975–2024: Overview and detailed results for secondary school students." *Monitoring the Future Monograph Series*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.

⁴ *Americans Much More Positive About Progress on Drugs* (2025), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/697445/americans-positive-progress-drugs.aspx>.

positive attitudes toward marijuana dropped by ten points among Republicans from 2022-2024.⁵ Support among Independents and Americans aged 18-34 fell by thirteen and seven points, respectively.

The marijuana industry wants Schedule III because large marijuana companies will receive billions in tax relief. Under Section 280E of the tax code, businesses trafficking Schedule I and II drugs cannot deduct business expenses.⁶ **Financial estimates predict the marijuana industry will get a \$2 billion annual tax break if they are no longer constrained by 280E.**⁷ This would incentivize addiction-for-profit dispensaries to advertise more kid-friendly products than ever. Tax relief should be prioritized for hard-working, law-abiding Americans and businesses, not marijuana shops.

Your Administration is spearheading the effort to take on Chinese criminal organizations. Rescheduling marijuana will hamper this effort and be a win for Chinese cartels that operate thousands of marijuana farms nationwide. These farms yield billions in revenue for Chinese traffickers and are an essential component of fentanyl money laundering schemes.⁸ According to the DEA, many of these Chinese marijuana farms are licensed by state governments. **Thus, they will be eligible for the 280E-exempt tax deductions under Schedule III.**⁹ Our country cannot adopt a policy that will provide tax relief to Chinese cartels that kill thousands of Americans every day.

Marijuana rescheduling will make our roads more dangerous. According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), “laboratories certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for such testing are not authorized to test for Schedule III controlled substances.”¹⁰ Under Schedule III, pilots, truck drivers, and other safety-sensitive professions will not be tested for marijuana. Marijuana is already imperiling safety: over 40% of fatal car crashes today involve THC.¹¹ **Rescheduling will exponentially worsen this crisis.**

Rescheduling marijuana will not make America great. You have always been a role model for America’s youth, telling young people for years that they should never do drugs. We hope that you consider the harms of marijuana rescheduling and continue sending that strong message of hope to the next generation.

Sincerely,

⁵ *Americans’ Views of Marijuana Effects Worsen* (2024), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/648821/americans-views-marijuana-effects-worsen.aspx>.

⁶ 26 U.S. Code § 280E (1982)

⁷ *Reclassifying Marijuana Could Unlock Billions in Tax Savings for Cannabis Companies* (2024), https://www.wsj.com/business/cannabis-companies-profits-taxes-3f8bbe0?gaa_at=eafs&gaa

⁸ *Marijuana and Mexican cartels: Inside the stunning rise of Chinese money launders* (2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/marijuana-mexican-cartels-stunning-rise-chinese-money-launderers-rcna158030>.

⁹ Grassley Highlights Nexus Between Chinese Money Laundering and State-Sanctioned Marijuana at Senate Drug Caucus Hearing (2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-highlights-nexus-between-chinese-money-laundering-and-state-sanctioned-marijuana-at-senate-drug-caucus-hearing>

¹⁰ *NTSB Raises Safety Concerns on Proposed Marijuana Changes*, National Transportation Safety Board, (2024), <https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/NR20240723.aspx>.

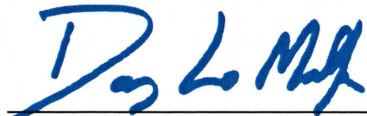
¹¹ Ekeh A, et al. “Cannabis Prevalence in Drivers Involved in Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities over a 6-Year Period,” Scientific Forum, American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2025



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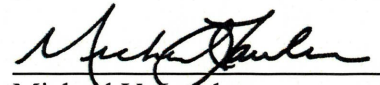
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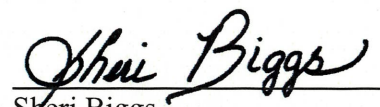
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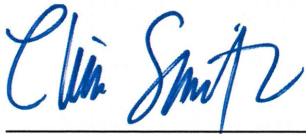
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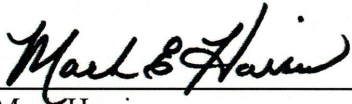
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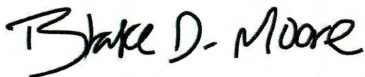
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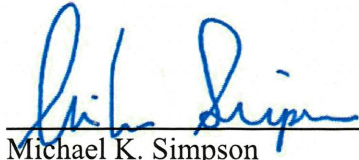
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