

# DEA Resistance to Marijuana Rescheduling Hinted by Biden Health Official

In a recent interview, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra suggested that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) may not fully support the Biden administration's efforts to reschedule marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act. Becerra stated that his agency acted based on scientific evidence in recommending the rescheduling but deferred questions about DEA resistance to the agency itself.

## Becerra's Perspective on Cannabis Use and Regulation

During the interview, Becerra highlighted concerns about marijuana use, particularly regarding regulation versus criminalization. He emphasized the need for responsible regulation akin to alcohol and tobacco, expressing confidence in regulatory frameworks to manage cannabis effectively.

## DEA's Position and Internal Dynamics

Speculation persists about internal disagreements within the administration regarding marijuana rescheduling. The DEA has indicated reservations, with the agency's involvement in the decision-making process and public comment highlighted as crucial steps before finalizing any scheduling changes.

## Public Reaction and Congressional Developments

The proposed rescheduling has sparked varied reactions from stakeholders, with advocates and opponents gearing up for a significant public comment period. Meanwhile, legislative efforts in Congress, including a legalization bill reintroduced by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, underscore ongoing debates surrounding federal cannabis policy.

## Future Outlook and Legal Considerations

Former DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson indicated that the DEA appears poised to proceed with the rescheduling, though challenges remain, including potential litigation and congressional gridlock on broader legalization efforts.

While the Biden administration's move to reschedule marijuana to Schedule III represents a significant policy shift, ongoing uncertainties and debates suggest that the path forward remains complex and fraught with political and legal challenges.