

# Advocacy Groups Call for DEA Hearing on Cannabis Rescheduling Proposal

## Opposition Mounts Against DEA Hearing on Cannabis Rescheduling

Various groups and individuals, including prohibitionists, law enforcement, and former DEA leaders, are urging the DEA to conduct public hearings on the government's plan to reschedule cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act. They argue that the review process leading to this recommendation was flawed and overstated cannabis's medical benefits while downplaying public health risks.

### Opposition Arguments

Critics, including a coalition of 18 state attorneys general and former DEA administrators, assert that rescheduling cannabis would have significant national and international implications. They contend that such a decision should be based on a robust administrative record and supported by scientific evidence, highlighting concerns about potential societal and health impacts.

### Resistance from Advocacy Groups

Organizations like Smart Approaches to Cannabis (SAM) have mobilized against rescheduling, citing concerns about increased accessibility and potential harm to vulnerable populations, such as youth. SAM has called for a delay in the rulemaking process, emphasizing the need for thorough public scrutiny and expert testimony on cannabis's abuse potential and health risks.

### Current Status and Next Steps

Despite opposition, the DEA continues to evaluate public comments and considerations before making a final determination. The agency's approach has sparked debate within both government and advocacy circles, with questions raised about the scientific basis and regulatory framework underlying the proposed rescheduling.

### Future Outlook

As the DEA weighs its decision, stakeholders on all sides await further developments, including potential legal challenges and additional public engagement opportunities. The outcome will likely shape federal policy on cannabis regulation and could impact the broader cannabis industry's future legal landscape.