

Gov. Beshear Backs Medical Cannabis Move to Schedule III

Governor Beshear Advocates for Rescheduling Medical Cannabis to Schedule III

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear has voiced strong support for the rescheduling of medical cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substance Act. In a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Beshear expressed his alignment with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) recommendation, highlighting the medical benefits of marijuana and its potential as an alternative to opioids. This advocacy follows the legalization of medical cannabis in Kentucky last year with the passing of Senate Bill 47.

Governor Beshear's call for rescheduling comes as the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program begins to regulate the cultivation, production, sale, and use of medical marijuana. By moving medical cannabis to Schedule III, it would officially acknowledge its medical uses and open pathways for further research and safer access. "The jury is no longer out on marijuana: it has medical uses and is currently being used for medical purposes," Governor Beshear wrote, emphasizing the established benefits of medical cannabis.

The rescheduling effort is not just about recognizing medical uses but also about providing a viable alternative to opioids, a critical concern in the ongoing opioid crisis. Beshear highlighted this point by stating, "For communities, rescheduling means legal medical cannabis programs continue to provide a secure alternative to illicit and unregulated markets, further reducing crime and abuse." This aligns with the broader objective of improving access to safe cannabis products and reducing dependency on opioids.

Implementation of Senate Bill 47 and Regulatory Framework

In Kentucky, the implementation of Senate Bill 47 has led to the establishment of a comprehensive regulatory framework. The Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program is actively accepting applications for cannabis business licenses, signaling the state's commitment to a structured and regulated cannabis industry. This is crucial for ensuring the availability of safe and controlled medical cannabis products to patients in need.

Governor Beshear's support for rescheduling has garnered widespread and bipartisan backing. He noted, "The recognition is overwhelming – and bipartisan. For example, I signed a medical marijuana law that passed with support from Republican legislative supermajorities and a Democratic Governor." This bipartisan support is a testament to the growing consensus on the medical uses of marijuana and the need for a controlled and regulated approach to its distribution and use.

National Implications and Broader Trends

The potential impact of rescheduling medical cannabis extends beyond Kentucky. It reflects a national trend towards recognizing the medical benefits of cannabis and integrating it into healthcare systems as a

legitimate treatment option. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation for rescheduling is a significant step in this direction, and Governor Beshear's advocacy adds weight to the call for change.

The Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program focuses on ensuring the safe and regulated use of medical cannabis from cultivation to sale. Governor Beshear's support for rescheduling medical cannabis to Schedule III highlights his commitment to patient needs and could reduce opioid dependency while improving access to safe products.

In conclusion, Governor Beshear's push for rescheduling medical cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III is a pivotal moment for the cannabis industry in Kentucky and potentially nationwide. By acknowledging the medical uses of cannabis and providing a secure alternative to opioids, this move could significantly benefit patients and communities, further establishing a regulated and safe medical cannabis market.

Email: info@cannabisriskmanager.com | Phone: +415-226-4060

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved