

Federal Rescheduling: Influential Groups Outline Strategies

The Biden administration has formally initiated the process to reschedule marijuana at the federal level, sparking anticipation from advocates and opponents of cannabis reform alike. The proposed rule, which seeks to move cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), was published in the Federal Register, marking the beginning of a 60-day public comment period.

Public Comment Period

With the publication of the proposed rule, stakeholders now have an opportunity to submit comments until July 22, after which additional input may be solicited through an administrative hearing. The Department of Justice (DOJ) specifically highlighted its interest in understanding the economic impacts of the rescheduling proposal, particularly in light of the burgeoning multibillion-dollar cannabis industry at the state level.

Advocacy Strategies

Various cannabis reform groups are gearing up to weigh in on the rescheduling proposal, each with distinct advocacy strategies. NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano emphasized the importance of mobilizing physicians and patients to provide their perspectives. While NORML supports rescheduling, it also advocates for descheduling cannabis altogether.

Cat Packer of the Drug Policy Alliance underscored the need for individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization to participate in the public comment process. She emphasized that rescheduling alone is insufficient and called for broader reforms, including legalization.

Opposition and Litigation

Prohibitionist organization Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) is actively preparing to challenge the rescheduling proposal, with plans to submit comments and potentially pursue litigation. DEA Administrator Anne Milgram has acknowledged the possibility of an administrative hearing to gather further input before finalizing the decision.

Legislative Outlook

While the rescheduling move represents a significant step, it falls short of federal legalization—a goal supported by some lawmakers. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has reintroduced legislation to federally legalize cannabis, though its prospects in Congress remain uncertain.

As the public comment period unfolds and stakeholders weigh in on the proposed rescheduling, the Biden administration's decision will undoubtedly shape the future of cannabis policy in the United States. While advocates welcome the recognition of cannabis's medical value, they continue to push for broader reforms to

address the harms of criminalization and promote equity and public health.

Stay tuned for further developments as the rescheduling process unfolds, and stakeholders continue to engage in the ongoing debate surrounding cannabis policy reform.

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

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved