

# Ted Cruz Raises Concerns Over Cannabis Rescheduling Impact on Road Safety

During comments at a Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) expressed criticism of the Biden administration's plan to move cannabis to Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). He linked increases in vehicle injury and fatality rates to the legalization of adult-use marijuana.

## Concerns About Drugged Driving

Cruz highlighted the issue of drugged driving, citing a research paper that found a correlation between the legalization of recreational marijuana and increased injury and fatal crash rates. He expressed concern about the potential safety impacts of rescheduling marijuana without explicit allowances for testing its use, particularly in safety-sensitive industries like trucking.

## Testimony from AAA Representative

Jake Nelson, the traffic safety and research director of the American Automobile Association (AAA), testified about the increase in dangerous driving behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that some drivers admitted to engaging in risky behaviors like driving after consuming cannabis.

## Cruz's Stance on Cannabis Legalization

While Cruz has previously indicated that states should have the authority to regulate cannabis, he has been critical of marijuana legalization efforts. He has also criticized federal guidance on alcohol consumption, asserting that it infringes on personal freedom.

## Biden Administration's Position

The Biden administration's drug czar defended the rescheduling determination, stating that it is based on science and evidence and would facilitate research into cannabis's medical benefits. However, further action from the FDA would be needed before marijuana products could be available by prescription.

Cruz's remarks reflect broader debates surrounding marijuana legalization and drug policy reform. As the Biden administration moves forward with its rescheduling plan, stakeholders on all sides are preparing to engage in public comment and advocacy efforts. The outcome of these discussions will shape the future of cannabis regulation in the United States.