

United States Senate

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Terrence C. Cole
Administrator
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Administrator,

I am writing to urge the Drug Enforcement Administration to take immediate action by scheduling 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and enforcing the *Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986* with respect to this substance.

The evidence is clear. 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) is a potent synthetic opioid agonist with significant addictive potential, rapid tolerance buildup, and well-documented withdrawal symptoms. It does not qualify as a naturally occurring dietary ingredient in any substantive commercial context. Instead, it is isolated, concentrated, synthesized, and marketed primarily for its narcotic effects. Its pharmacology more closely resembles that of fentanyl than any traditional botanical supplement, and its risk profile poses a grave threat to public health.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already taken decisive steps on this matter, and the scientific consensus is firmly established. What is now required is prompt scheduling and enforcement by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

To underscore the pressing nature of this scheduling decision, on December 3rd, the Department of Justice and FDA seized thousands of units of 7-OH products from warehouses around Kansas City.¹ These seizures occurred as a result of FDA inspections showing these companies continued to distribute illegal 7-OH products after receiving warning letters from the FDA. These companies are continuing to defy warnings from the FDA, and more serious action needs to be taken to ensure these dangerous products are kept away from people.

The Controlled Substance Analogue Act was designed explicitly for scenarios like this: a synthetic compound that is chemically and pharmacologically akin to a Schedule I or II

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-seizes-unlawful-7-oh-products-three-warehouses>

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controlled substance, intended for human consumption, and eliciting similar effects. The criteria are clearly satisfied.

Each day of inaction heightens public exposure, legitimizes illicit distribution, and bolsters criminal networks. I strongly implore the DEA to act expeditiously and schedule 7-hydroxymitragynine at the appropriate level.

Respectfully,



Roger Marshall, M.D.

United States Senator