



Congressman Morgan Griffith
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
2110 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Chairman Griffith,



We write to thank you for holding a hearing and soliciting public input on HR 8000. We respectfully ask that you consider the serious unintended consequences this legislation would impose on American families, particularly adult consumers who lawfully and responsibly use 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) as a harm reduction tool and a less harmful alternative to traditional opioids.



For those reasons, we urge you to oppose HR 8000 as written and instead allow Congress to craft a sensible regulatory framework that protects children while preserving access for informed adults.



Millions of Americans rely on 7-OH to reduce and often end their use of illicit opioids. Many adult consumers have turned to it in place of prescription pain pills to manage chronic pain.



Outright prohibition would not make these people disappear — it would push them back toward opioids, whether legally prescribed or obtained through the black markets that invariably form in the wake of blanket bans like the one proposed here. Congress has seen this story before, and it does not end well.

Equally troubling is the speed with which this ban is being pursued. The scientific literature on 7-OH is still developing, and several medicinal trials are actively underway. A Schedule I classification would not only terminate those trials, but it would make them illegal.

Scheduling a substance used safely and effectively by millions of adults, without adequate scientific justification, sets a troubling precedent and adds unnecessary burden to both consumers and the healthcare system.

The initial data from federal agencies supports a regulatory framework for 7-OH rather than criminalization and an outright

ban. The FDA's [own data](#)¹ show only 40 adverse health events – fewer than those associated with soap – despite more than [a million Americans](#)² having consumed 7-OH to the tune of more than 1 billion servings. That is not a public health emergency. That is a substance in need of proper oversight.

Independent researchers agree. Consistent with FDA's initial data, prominent researchers from [Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and UCLA](#)³ emphasize that 7-OH should not be treated as a public health emergency, noting that existing evidence reveals no documented cases of fatal overdoses, respiratory depression, or broad-scale dependence.

No lethal oral dose has been identified in animal studies. This is a meaningful distinction from the well-documented toxicity profiles of opioids and even common over-the-counter medications like acetaminophen.

We welcome the ability to have a more substantive conversation with your staff on a strong regulatory approach to 7-OH that keeps underage Americans safe while preserving lawful access for adult consumers.

Such a framework would include a minimum purchase age of 21, age-verification at points of sale, clear labeling and packaging restrictions, regular manufacturing inspections, and meaningful advertising restrictions. These are sensible and smart policies that would avoid needless criminalization and government bureaucracy.

Congress should not rush to schedule a substance used by millions of Americans without any scientific or public health justification to support it. We respectfully urge you to take the more measured and more effective path. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

¹ FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) Public Dashboard, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/fdas-adverse-event-reporting-system-faers/fda-adverse-event-reporting-system-faers-public-dashboard> (last visited Mar. 25, 2026).

² Marwood Group, *Marwood Report* (June 24, 2025), <https://8zk4yr9arpcn-u6814.pressidiumcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Marwood-Report-Final-6-24-25.pdf>.

³ *Leading Researchers Reject FDA's Position, Find No Evidence of Harm from 7-OH*, Hart Supporter, <https://hartsupporter.com/leading-researchers-reject-fdas-position-find-no-evidence-of-harm-from-7-oh-in-response-from-shaman-botanicals-to-fda/> (last visited Mar. 25, 2026).

Consumer Choice Center

Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE)

End It For Good

Hispanic Leadership Fund

Moms For America

Taxpayers Protection Alliance