

May 21, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D.
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201

Dear President Trump and Administrator Oz,

We write as a coalition of consumer advocates, free market organizations, drug policy reformers, and public policy leaders to thank President Trump for his May 10 statement that his Administration is “looking very seriously at natural 7-OH” and working toward its approval.

The President is right to take this issue seriously. Millions of Americans use natural 7-hydroxymitragynine, or 7-OH, for pain management, harm reduction, and wellness. They deserve a policy based on science, safety, and consumer protection, not panic or prohibition.

The key distinction is simple: natural 7-OH is not the same as dangerous synthetic compounds. While all consumer products should be subject to responsible oversight, the available evidence does not support treating natural 7-OH like fentanyl, heroin, or other Schedule I narcotics.

The science is clear. 7-hydroxymitragynine occurs as a native alkaloid in the leaves of *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom). Leading researchers at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and UCLA have consistently found that 7-OH products do not present the public health profile of a Schedule I narcotic, with no oral lethal dose ([LD50](#)) having been established in animal models. The FDA’s own adverse event data show roughly 40 reported incidents across well over one billion servings consumed, and [no confirmed deaths](#) attributable solely to naturally derived 7-OH has been documented.

That line is both scientifically sound and regulatorily workable. Natural, plant-derived products can be tested, labeled, age-restricted, and held to clear safety standards. Illicit

compounds, contaminated products, false labeling, youth marketing, and bad actors should be met with aggressive enforcement.

A ban would move the country in the wrong direction. Prohibition does not eliminate demand. It drives it underground, pushing consumers into gray markets, where products are untested, unlabeled, and often more dangerous. That is already happening. Synthetic kratom products, MGM-15 and MGM-16, have entered the market as direct substitutes for natural 7-OH where bans have taken effect. A federal prohibition would only accelerate that trend and open the door to Chinese synthetic manufacturers, who have exploited precisely these market vacuums before, using the same gray-market import networks that flooded American communities with fentanyl.

The better answer is a clear adult-use regulatory framework for natural 7-OH. That framework should include strict age verification, product registration, licensing, clear labeling, independent testing, potency disclosure, contaminant limits, adverse-event reporting, and strong enforcement against dangerous synthetic analogs.

This approach would protect consumers, respect adult choice, and give regulators the tools to keep dangerous synthetic products out of American communities. Sweeping prohibition would do the opposite.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing that Americans deserve a policy based on evidence, safety, and freedom, not fear.

Sincerely,

Yaël Ossowski
Deputy Director
Consumer Choice Center

Moms for America Action

Ross Marchand
Executive Director
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Moms for America

Gerard Scimeca
Chairman
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Doctors for Drug Policy Reform

Kat Murti
Executive Director
Students For Sensible Drug Policy

End It For Good