

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to ask you to uphold marijuana's status as a Schedule I drug. Rescheduling marijuana to a Schedule III drug will undermine your strong efforts to Make America Great Again and to usher in America's next economic Golden Age. The only winners from rescheduling will be bad actors such as Communist China, while Americans will be left paying the bill.

Marijuana continues to fit the definition of a Schedule I drug due to its high potential for abuse and its lack of an FDA-approved use. The evidence shows that marijuana is harmful to its users, especially to young people and women who are pregnant and nursing.<sup>1</sup> According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, studies show that marijuana is linked to "depression, anxiety, suicide planning, and psychotic episodes." Tragically, mass shootings have a link to marijuana use, including school shootings; in fact, the shooter who attacked a Catholic school in Minneapolis blamed his actions on "gender and weed" and wrote, "I wish I never tried experimenting with either."<sup>2</sup> Additionally, marijuana has long-term effects on brain health, including "permanent IQ loss" when a person starts using marijuana at a young age.<sup>3</sup> Lastly, babies are also at risk from marijuana, as marijuana use during pregnancy may result in "fetal growth restriction, premature birth, stillbirth, and problems with brain development, resulting in hyperactivity and poor cognitive function."<sup>4</sup>

We cannot reindustrialize America if we encourage marijuana use. America's workplace and America's roads are endangered by marijuana use. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified studies linking marijuana use to "impaired judgment" and "lack of concentration," as well as research finding increases in industrial accidents, injuries, and absenteeism among employees who tested

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<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Servs. Admin., Know the Effects, Risks and Side Effects of Marijuana (Sept. 9, 2025) <https://www.samhsa.gov/substance-use/learn/marijuana/risks>.

<sup>2</sup> Diana Nerozzi & Ronny Reyes, *Minneapolis gunman Robin Westman blamed massacre on mom warning him not to change gender — and discouraged people from letting their kids transition*, N.Y. POST, Aug. 29, 2025, <https://nypost.com/2025/08/29/us-news/minneapolis-gunman-robin-westman-blamed-massacre-on-mom-warning-him-not-to-change-gender-and-discouraged-people-from-letting-their-kids-transition/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra* note 1.

positive for marijuana versus those who tested negative.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration warns that marijuana users are more likely to be involved with car crashes and studies show that marijuana impacts motor skills, cognitive functions, and user's ability to multitask, which is a "critical skill" for drivers.<sup>6</sup>

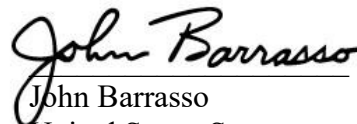
Rescheduling would also give a massive tax break to marijuana companies. These companies are currently prohibited from taking business tax deductions under Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code due to their involvement with marijuana, given its status as a Schedule I drug. According to the marijuana industry's own researchers, marijuana companies would obtain a \$2.3 billion tax break if marijuana were to be rescheduled.<sup>7</sup> Marijuana business leaders have said they will use this infusion of funds to increase their marketing and to expand their businesses into additional states.<sup>8</sup> While supporters of rescheduling argue that extending tax benefits to marijuana businesses will create economic growth, the costs of workplace and vehicular accidents caused by increased marijuana usage far exceeds any perceived benefits—not to mention the moral costs of marijuana advertising that could reach kids.<sup>9</sup>

In light of the documented dangers of marijuana, facilitating the growth of the marijuana industry is at odds with growing our economy and encouraging healthy lifestyles for Americans. We urge you to continue your strong leadership of our country and our economy, and to turn away from marijuana rescheduling.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

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<sup>5</sup> John Howard et al., Cannabis and Work: Implications, Impairment, and the Need for Further Research, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (Jun. 15, 2020).

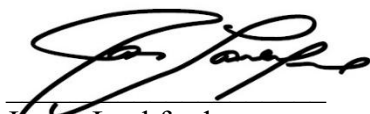
<https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/06/15/cannabis-and-work/>.

<sup>6</sup> Nat'l Hwy. Traffic Safety Admin., Drug-Impaired Driving, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving> (last visited Dec. 17, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> Jennifer Maloney & Richard Rubin, *Reclassifying Marijuana Could Unlock Billions in Tax Savings for Cannabis Companies*, WALL ST. J., May 5, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/business/cannabis-companies-profits-taxes-3f8bbe0>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*


<sup>9</sup> 21 U.S.C. § 843(c). The criminal prohibition on written advertisements for Schedule I controlled substances would cease to apply to marijuana if it were moved to Schedule III.



James Lankford  
United States Senator



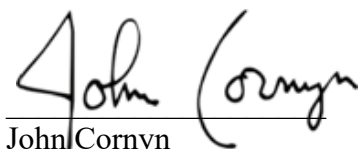
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



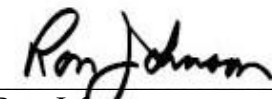
John Cornyn  
United States Senator



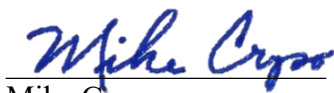
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United States Senator



Jim Banks  
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Ron Johnson  
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Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



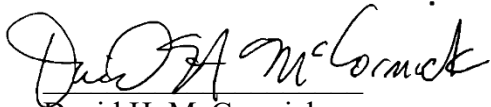
Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator



David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



Mitch McConnell  
United States Senator