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Drug Enforcement Administration
DEA Federal Register Representative
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152.

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Subject: Docket No. DEA-1362 - Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

As a licensed psychologist with extensive experience in mental health, I strongly advocate for the rescheduling of marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). This reclassification is imperative for numerous reasons, impacting research, mental health treatment, criminal justice reform, and constitutional rights.

Some things that are worth considering:

Advancements in Research: The current Schedule I classification, which designates marijuana as having no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse, severely hinders scientific research into its therapeutic potential. Rescheduling to Schedule III would acknowledge the growing body of evidence suggesting marijuana's efficacy in treating various conditions, such as chronic pain, post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), and epilepsy. It would facilitate further research to determine its full spectrum of benefits and risks, enabling evidence-based treatment decisions.

Mental Health:

- **Therapeutic Potential:** Emerging research suggests marijuana's potential therapeutic benefits for various mental health conditions, including PTSD, anxiety, and chronic pain. Rescheduling would facilitate rigorous research to fully understand its efficacy and safety.
- **Patient Access:** Maintaining marijuana in Schedule I impedes patients' access to potentially beneficial treatments. Rescheduling would allow healthcare professionals to prescribe and monitor marijuana use in a controlled and regulated environment, prioritizing patient well-being.
- **Harm Reduction:** Criminalizing marijuana disproportionately affects marginalized communities, leading to unnecessary incarceration and hindering access to mental health services. Rescheduling would promote a harm reduction approach, focusing on treatment and support rather than punitive measures.

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Research:

- **Scientific Inquiry:** The current Schedule I classification stifles scientific inquiry into marijuana's potential benefits and risks. Rescheduling would remove barriers to research, enabling scientists to conduct comprehensive studies and inform evidence-based policies.
- **Medical Advancements:** By understanding marijuana's mechanisms of action and potential therapeutic applications, researchers can develop targeted medications and interventions, potentially revolutionizing mental health treatment.

Criminal Justice Reform: The criminalization of marijuana has disproportionately impacted marginalized communities, leading to mass incarceration and perpetuating systemic inequities. Rescheduling would reduce the legal penalties associated with marijuana possession and use, alleviating the burden on the criminal justice system and promoting a more equitable approach to drug policy. It would also redirect resources towards treatment and prevention, addressing the root causes of substance abuse.

Constitutional Rights: The current federal prohibition of marijuana, despite its legalization in numerous states, raises concerns regarding states' rights and individual autonomy. Rescheduling would align federal law with the growing consensus among states that have chosen to legalize marijuana for medical or adult use. It would respect the principle of federalism and allow states to regulate marijuana in accordance with their constituents' preferences.

Policy and Constitutional Considerations:

- **Federalism:** Rescheduling would align federal policy with the growing number of states that have legalized marijuana for medical or adult use. This would reduce the conflict between state and federal laws, enhancing regulatory oversight and ensuring consumer safety.
- **Constitutional Rights:** The current classification of marijuana raises concerns about individual liberties, including the right to bodily autonomy and access to healthcare. Rescheduling would respect these rights while maintaining appropriate regulatory controls.

Rescheduling marijuana to Schedule III is a scientifically sound, ethically responsible, and constitutionally consistent approach. It would prioritize patient well-being, advance scientific knowledge, and promote a more just and equitable society. I urge the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to heed the scientific evidence and consider the broader societal implications in their decision-making process.

Very Respectfully,

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Licensed Psychologist

cc: Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration

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