Students for Sensible Drug Policy
1800 M St NW, #33051
Washington, DC 20036
ssdp.org

Admiral Brian Christine, MD
Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Room 716G
Washington, DC 20201
via email: ruben.hernandezsegarra@hhs.gov, Brian.Christine@hhs.gov, Terrence.L.Boos@dea.gov

July 28, 2026

Request for Extension to Submit Public Comments – Docket No. HHS-OASH-2026-0232

Dear ADM Christine;

On behalf of **Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)**, a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit representing students, researchers, consumers, and other impacted by this prospective rule, we respectfully request a 60 day extension of the public comment period to respond to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health's request for information (RFI), Docket No. HHS-OASH-2026-0232, concerning the proposed threshold for the temporary placement of 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) above a specified threshold in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

We ask that the current July 31, 2026 closing date — less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register—be extended to no earlier than September 29, 2026.

While we very much appreciate the opportunity to provide comments, the current comment window — which opened on July 6th, 2026 — provides less than 30 days from publication in the Federal Register to review and develop comments. Respectfully, this does not afford a reasonable opportunity to engage substantively with the complex, novel, and consequential issues raised by the RFI.

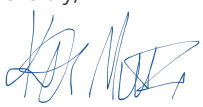
Meaningful engagement with these questions requires assembly and interpretation of scientific, analytical, and commercial data that cannot reasonably be developed within the current window. A modest extension would materially strengthen the evidentiary record before the Agency, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General, and would help ensure that any threshold ultimately recommended rests on the most complete scientific and empirical foundation available.

For the same reasons, we respectfully urge that OASH coordinate with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to hold the temporary scheduling order in abeyance until the evidentiary record developed through this proceeding has been meaningfully evaluated and incorporated into the Department's scientific and medical assessment.

Advancing the temporary scheduling determination before that record is complete risks adopting a threshold that the underlying pharmacological, analytical, and clinical evidence may not, on full examination, support — an outcome that would disserve the public interest this rulemaking is intended to protect.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sensibly,



Kat Murti
Executive Director
Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)