



Statement from the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) on the Rescheduling of Marijuana

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) is deeply concerned about the decision to move forward with rescheduling marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act and the serious public safety and public health implications of this action.

This move toward rescheduling should not be interpreted as evidence that marijuana is safe or harmless. Narcotics officers working in communities nationwide are confronting the consequences of marijuana use: youth addiction, impaired driving, mental health crises, and illicit markets tied to organized crime.

National trends underscore these risks. Marijuana use among young adults ages 19-30 has reached the highest levels ever recorded.¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data show that the share of drivers involved in fatal crashes who test positive for THC has increased significantly over time.² Law enforcement also faces substantial challenges detecting and prosecuting marijuana-impaired driving due to the absence of a scientifically established impairment threshold for THC.³

This move toward federal rescheduling does not alter NNOAC's mission: reducing drug abuse, disrupting illicit trafficking, and protecting communities.

We urge policymakers to ensure this rescheduling is accompanied by clear and consistent public education on marijuana's risks, enhanced support for drug-impaired driving enforcement and prevention, robust enforcement resources to combat illicit marijuana trafficking, and sustained investment in prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

NNOAC stands ready to work with policymakers to ensure public safety remains the priority as federal drug policy evolves.

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1. University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future: National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975–2024 (Institute for Social Research, 2024–2025).
 2. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Marijuana-Impaired Driving: A Report to Congress (DOT HS 812 440, July 2020).
 3. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Drug and Alcohol Crash Risk Study (DOT HS 812 117, February 2015).