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HART Responds to Emergency Scheduling of 7-OH in Florida

Florida Action Prioritizes Politics Over Science—Driven by Big Kratom Fear Campaign

Tampa, FL — The Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust (HART) today responded to the announcement by Florida officials that 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), a kratom-derived compound, is being emergency scheduled. While the action is framed as a public health measure, the facts tell a different story.

“This decision ignores the science,” said Jeff Smith, National Policy Director for HART. “According to the FDA’s database, there are zero confirmed deaths linked to 7-OH alone, and just eight adverse events ever reported, even with over half a billion adult uses. If 7-OH were truly the threat being claimed, the data would show it. It doesn’t.”

While 7-OH now faces a ban, kratom, associated with over 200 confirmed deaths and dozens of serious injuries, remains untouched. The contrast raises troubling questions about who is shaping policy in Florida. Kratom industry trade groups have long lobbied to eliminate 7-OH from the market, despite its comparatively safer profile. Meanwhile, the popular kratom drink **'Feel Free', created by Global Kratom Coalition funder JW Ross** and marketed widely in convenience stores, has been the subject of alarming reports of addiction, severe withdrawal, and health effects over the past week.

“Emergency scheduling is meant to address immediate, demonstrated dangers, not to eliminate market competitors under the guise of public health,” Smith said. “The Florida AG’s action today may serve the interests of kratom lobbyists, but it doesn’t serve the people of Florida who deserve safe, regulated options—not political theater.”

HART will be working with Florida state legislators ahead of the 2026 session to introduce comprehensive, science-based regulations covering both 7-OH and kratom. Floridians deserve both consumer access and consumer safety, and that comes from real regulatory oversight—not actions driven by fear, misinformation, or special interest lobbying.

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About HART:

The Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust (HART) is a national nonprofit organization advocating for science-based policy, regulatory transparency, and access to safe, plant-based alternatives. 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), a metabolite of mitragynine, the most abundant alkaloid found in kratom, is a new tool being used to improve public health. HART strongly supports robust regulation to mandate that all 7-OH products are manufactured safely, are marketed transparently, and are kept out of the hands of children. Learn more at hartsupporter.com.