

Advocacy Packet: Oppose New Jersey Senate Bill S301

Bill Information

This bill proposes to classify 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) as a Schedule I controlled dangerous substance in New Jersey. If passed, this could make many people instant criminals overnight simply for possessing or using products that contain 7-OH.

Read the full bill here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2026/S0500/301_I1.PDF

Hearing Information

Date: Monday, March 16, 2026

Time: 10:00am Eastern Time

Location: Committee Room 4, First Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ

Dr. Michele Ross will be testifying, but she needs your support. If you can attend the hearing and speak, **please attend**. Even if you don't want to speak, simply showing up makes a difference.

Contact the Senate Committee

Please respectfully contact these senators and explain how a ban on 7-OH would negatively impact your life. All email addresses and phone numbers are clickable! Personalize the email template a bit with your own words and story.

Senator Joseph F. Vitale (Chair)

Email: senvitale@njleg.org

Phone: (732) 855-7441

Senator Renee Burgess

Email: senburgess@njleg.org

Phone: (973) 371-5665

Senator John F. McKeon

Email: senmckeon@njleg.org

Phone: (862) 930-7071

Senator Angela McKnight

Email: senmcknight@njleg.org

Phone: (201) 360-2502

Senator Raj Mukherji

Email: senmukherji@njleg.org

Phone: (201) 626-4000

Senator Owen Henry

Email: senhenry@njleg.org

Phone: (732) 987-5669

Senator Holly Schepisi

Email: senschepisi@njleg.org

Phone: (201) 928-0100

Senator Robert Singer

Email: sensinger@njleg.org

Phone: (732) 987-5669

Email Template

Subject: Please Oppose S301 – Protect Harm Reduction in New Jersey

Dear Senator [Last Name],

I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill S301, which would classify

7-hydroxymitragynine as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Many adults rely on kratom-derived products as a harm-reduction alternative to more dangerous substances, including illicit opioids. Removing these options risks pushing individuals toward unsafe street drugs or other harmful alternatives.

Recent public-health data show that overdose deaths are declining in the United States.

- CDC data show overdose deaths dropped dramatically from 2023 to 2024, the largest annual decrease ever recorded.
- The decline coincides with expanded harm-reduction strategies and increased access to alternatives to illicit opioids.

While the exact causes are still being studied, researchers emphasize the importance of harm-reduction approaches that keep people away from dangerous street drugs. Kratom and its alkaloids are currently being studied for their potential role as harm-reduction tools.

Instead of banning this compound, New Jersey should explore responsible regulatory frameworks that protect consumers while preserving access to safer alternatives. These could include:

- Limiting sales to adults age 21 and older
- Requiring third-party laboratory testing for purity and potency
- Mandating clear labeling of ingredients and alkaloid content
- Setting contaminant limits for heavy metals, microbes, and adulterants
- Implementing manufacturing and quality-control standards
- Restricting marketing that targets minors

I respectfully ask you to oppose S301 and support evidence-based harm-reduction policies focused on regulation, product safety, and continued research.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[City, State]

Call Script

Hello, my name is [Name]. I'm calling to respectfully ask Senator [Last Name] to oppose Senate Bill S301. This bill could remove a harm-reduction option and unintentionally push people toward more dangerous street drugs. I encourage the Senator to support responsible regulation instead, such as age limits, lab testing, and labeling standards. Thank you

Scientific Context For Phone Calls

Recent public-health data show that overdose deaths are declining in the United States.

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- The decline coincides with expanded harm-reduction strategies and increased access to alternatives to illicit opioids.

While the exact causes are still being studied, researchers emphasize the importance of harm-reduction approaches that keep people away from dangerous street drugs.

Kratom and its alkaloids are currently being studied for their potential role as harm-reduction tools for individuals with substance-use disorders.

Summary

S301 proposes scheduling 7-hydroxymitragynine as a Schedule I controlled substance in New Jersey. This policy risks removing a harm-reduction option that some adults use as an alternative to illicit opioids. Public health policy should prioritize regulation, research, and consumer safety rather than prohibition.