



April 2026 Newsletter

The Countdown Continues... 197 days away from losing access to most hemp-derived products in the United States.

Kentucky Legislative Update: There were no new bills passed this session affecting hemp regulations or businesses. HB9 would have instituted a .016 cents tax on THC per milligram or milliliter, which would have been a logistical nightmare and SB223 would have changed where cannabis-infused beverages could be sold. HB757 did pass and this will ban Kratom sales in Kentucky effective July 2027.

Federal Legislative Update: A new bipartisan bill led by Senator Rand Paul aims to preserve the U.S. hemp industry by shifting regulatory authority to states and tribal governments. The proposed Hemp Safety Enforcement Act is co-sponsored by Amy Klobuchar and Joni Ernst. Senator Paul said the legislation is designed to prevent a federal overhaul from disrupting a multi-billion-dollar sector that already operates under a patchwork of state-level regulations. The bill also includes provisions to protect interstate commerce, preventing states from blocking hemp products coming from other jurisdictions that have opted for self-regulation.

The biggest cannabis news this month is the rescheduling of medical marijuana that went into effect April 23rd, but what does this actually mean? Currently it only pertains to FDA-approved drug products containing marijuana and marijuana manufactured, distributed, or dispensed under a qualifying state-issued medical marijuana license. What is explicitly excluded: synthetically derived THC, which remains Schedule I. Previously scheduled synthetic products like Marinol and Syndros are unaffected. Delta-10-THC and other synthetically derived cannabinoids remain Schedule I. Adult-use recreational marijuana in all states remains Schedule I. Hemp is governed separately by the 2018 Farm Bill and is outside this order's scope entirely. Rescheduling is beneficial for medical recognition, research opportunities and reduced criminal penalties.

So while rescheduling is significant, it is not a green light for nationwide legalization, though there is a hearing scheduled for June 29th regarding rescheduling "recreational" marijuana.

Continue to reach out to your lawmakers and have your friends in other states that support hemp to do the same. Share this link: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> to find your local representatives.

We will continue to work closely with our lobbyist to make the Kentucky Hemp Association's voice heard, but we rely solely on donations to pay for our lobbyist. If you can make any donation, it is truly appreciated!

It's easy to donate online: <https://kyhempassociation.org/donations/> or send checks to The Kentucky Hemp Association, 11609 Dawson Springs Rd., Crofton, KY 42217.

We want to thank everyone for renewing your memberships! It helps us be more effective because there is strength in numbers. If your membership has expired, it's easy to renew!

Renew your membership: <https://kyhempassociation.org/new-member-sign-up/#join>

As always, please reach out with any questions you may have. We truly appreciate our members and supporters! Everyone's efforts help in achieving our goal of moving this industry forward. Email us: info@kyhempassociation.org