



November 16, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the interval between legislative sessions.

Health and Safety Code Section 481.034 requires the department to schedule a substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2019, the department has finalized 83 scheduling actions subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Recently, the DEA has started scheduling classes of drugs rather than individual chemicals, in order to anticipate altered versions that might appear (e.g. fentanyl related substances). Because of this rapid and broad ranging control by the DEA, the department has not had to initiate any independent emergency scheduling actions.

If you would like more information, or have questions, Stephen Pahl, Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection, serves as lead staff on this issue. Stephen Pahl can be reached at [Stephen.Pahl@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Stephen.Pahl@dshs.texas.gov) or at 512-834-6687.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 16, 2020

The Honorable Dan Patrick  
Lt. Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12697  
Austin, TX 78711-2697

Dear Governor Patrick:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the interval between legislative sessions.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 16, 2020

The Honorable John Whitmire  
Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Whitmire:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the interval between legislative sessions.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 16, 2020

The Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Kolkhorst:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the interval between legislative sessions.

Health and Safety Code Section 481.034 requires the department to schedule a substance once notice of a federal scheduling action is received. Since January 1, 2019, the department has finalized 83 scheduling actions subsequent to federal scheduling actions by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



November 16, 2020

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson  
Chair, House Committee on Public Health  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chair Thompson:

The Texas Controlled Substances Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, section 481.0355 requires the Department of State Health Services to report to you any emergency scheduling actions that may have occurred in the interval between legislative sessions.

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