VETERANS TO SAVE 7-OH

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

November 11, 2025

RE: Veterans Urge HHS to Protect Access to 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) as a Critical Harm Reduction Tool

Dear Secretary Collins:

We write to you as a coalition of United States military veterans from across the nation and, together, under the banner of *Veterans to Save 7-OH*, respectfully urge you and the Department of Health and Human Services to reject any move to prohibit or criminalize 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and instead pursue responsible regulation.

We are combat veterans, first responders, and others who have served our country and suffered from wounds both visible and invisible. For many of us, 7-OH has been life-changing. It has offered relief where years of prescription medications, surgeries, or therapy failed. It has quieted the pain that kept us from sleeping, helped calm nerves that think we never left the battlefield, and provided a bridge away from dangerous opioids and alcohol. It has allowed us to be parents, partners, and contributing members of our communities again. Simply put, it has given us back our lives.

In an era where some 150 Americans die each day from opioid overdoses, we cannot afford to lose 7-OH, a compound that is safely helping veterans recover, reconnect, and rebuild. Among veterans, that toll is even higher: we are twice as likely to die from overdose as civilians.

Banning 7-OH would not make veterans safer. On the contrary, it would make us more vulnerable. It would drive some of us back to dangerous drugs just to manage pain or PTSD. We've buried enough brothers and sisters to know how that story ends.

Regulation, not prohibition, is the responsible path forward, including age restrictions, quality controls, transparent labeling, and continued research into dosage and long-term use. We urge you to stand with us by preserving access, supporting continued scientific study, and committing to responsible regulation of 7-OH.

We stand ready to share our stories and work with your team to ensure veterans aren't forced back into harm's way. Protect 7-OH. Regulate it responsibly. Lives depend on it.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with HHS staff, provide firsthand accounts, and participate in ongoing discussions about balanced policy for 7-OH. We are living proof that it saves lives.

With deepest respect,
Veterans to Save 7-OH

John Blanchard – Sheridan, AR
Michael Burnell, Jr. – Westcliffe, CO
Koby Cleveland – Mobile, AL
Kyle Jackson – Hillsboro, GA
Jeremy Jones – State College, PA
Eric Linkenhoker – Hardy, KY
Cavan McIntyre – Harrisburg, PA
Mallory Sereny – Midlothian, VA
Kendall Tipper – Jacksonville, FL

Contact: veterans@save7oh.org | www.save7oh.org