



**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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August 18, 2025

The Honorable Terry Cole  
Administrator  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrisette Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22152

***Re: Emergency Scheduling of so-called "Designer Xanax" bromazolam***

Dear Administrator Cole:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to encourage the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to take emergency action to schedule bromazolam under the Controlled Substances Act. Bromazolam, a dangerous and unregulated designer benzodiazepine, is increasingly contributing to overdose deaths and posing a growing threat to public health and safety in our states.

Called a "designer Xanax," and originally synthesized but never approved for medical use, bromazolam is now being sold illicitly on the streets and online. It is both highly potent and unpredictable, especially when combined with opioids or other central nervous system depressants. Unlike regulated medications, illicitly manufactured bromazolam lacks any quality controls, making it particularly lethal for unsuspecting users.

In Kentucky, the Office of Drug Control Policy has reported approximately 47 overdose deaths in 2024 linked to bromazolam, highlighting the dangerous impact of this drug even in a single state. Similarly, in Florida, former Attorney General Ashley Moody issued a public warning about a sharp rise in deaths connected to this drug, calling it a "hidden killer" and emphasizing its presence in counterfeit pills. Other states have likewise begun to see troubling trends, as documented in recent media reports and preliminary toxicology screenings.

Despite its clear dangers, bromazolam remains unscheduled at the federal level, creating significant challenges for law enforcement and public health officials trying to respond to this emerging crisis. Without scheduling, this drug continues to evade traditional regulatory and prosecutorial tools, hindering interdiction efforts and enabling continued distribution through illicit channels.

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We urge the DEA to use its authority under 21 U.S.C. § 811 to initiate emergency or permanent scheduling of bromazepam. Taking emergency action to schedule bromazepam will help law enforcement remove it from circulation, give prosecutors the tools to hold traffickers accountable, and send a clear signal that this dangerous substance has no place on our streets.

As you know all too well, we live at a time when as little as *one pill can kill—and is killing—our children*. There is zero margin of error when it comes to illicit drugs and counterfeit pills. As parents and public officials, we must do everything possible to cut off the supply of these deadly substances through vigorous enforcement, while also continuing to promote the prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts that are saving lives across our states.

We stand ready to zealously collaborate on solutions to combat the spread of synthetic and designer drugs. The health and safety of our communities depend on strong, decisive action. Thank you for the heroic efforts of those you lead in fighting for this nation.

Please be safe,



Russell Coleman  
Kentucky Attorney General



Steve Marshall  
Alabama Attorney General



James Uthmeier  
Florida Attorney General



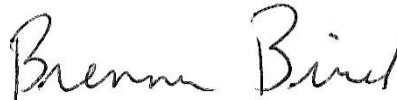
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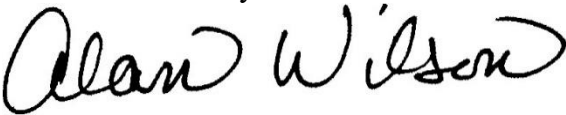
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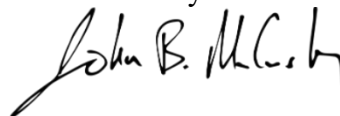
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