



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrissette Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22152-1080

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*www.dea.gov*

**JAN 26 2018**

Americans for Safe Access Foundation  
Steph Sherer  
1624 U Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Sherer,

This letter is in response to the request for correction of information submitted by the Americans for Safe Access Foundation (ASA) on December 5, 2016 with respect to information disseminated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regarding marijuana (cannabis).

The Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section (DRE) of DEA has reviewed ASA's petition, which contends that statements made in two DEA publications: (1) "The Dangers and Consequences of Marijuana Abuse," and (2) "Drugs of Abuse," are inconsistent with statements made in DEA's more recent "Denial of Petition to Initiate Proceedings to Reschedule Marijuana," 81 Fed. Reg. 53688 (Aug. 12, 2016). These three documents are unique with different purposes and content. Four major categories of information were referenced in ASA's petition: psychosis, lung cancer, the gateway theory, and cognitive effects associated with marijuana use.

Pursuant to the Department of Justice's Information Quality Guidelines, DRE conducted a thorough review of the challenged statements and their contexts, the processes used to create and disseminate the information, and the conformity of the information and those processes with both DOJ's and the Office of Management and Budget's Information Quality Guidelines. In doing so, DRE paid special attention to the quality (including the objectivity, utility, and integrity) of the statements and other information referenced in ASA's petition related to these categories and the respective publications. Based on this review, ASA's petition is denied.

DEA's publication, "The Dangers and Consequences of Marijuana Abuse" has been removed from DEA's website, not as a response to ASA's petition, but as part of a regular update process. Removal of this document moots the portions of ASA's petition based on this document and seeking its withdrawal from DEA's website. Moreover, DEA periodically updates documents to reflect the latest scientific viewpoints with respect to marijuana research and remain current in the scientific findings related to drugs of misuse and abuse. As scientific knowledge increases, the DEA will remain objective and unbiased and continue to report contemporary data that is scientifically accurate and legally defensible. DEA's more recent publications contain information and scientific findings that have been updated and that may not have been fully reflected in prior publications. DRE and other DEA Offices will continue to review data and statements for their accuracy and with an emphasis on quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity.

If ASA wishes to appeal this decision, an appeal must be submitted within 45 calendar days of the date of this letter to:

Diversion Control Division  
Liaison and Policy Section  
8701 Morrissette Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22152-1080

Sincerely,



Susan A. Gibson  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Diversion Control Division

cc: Vickie L. Freeman  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
1000 Marsh Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025