Proclamation Regarding Emerging Drug Threats
Pikes Peak Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council

WHEREAS, the Pikes Peak Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council directs opioid settlement funds with a focus on accountability and responsible stewardship to prevent substance misuse, support youth and families affected by substance misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, and strengthen coordinated, data-informed systems that improve long-term community health and safety; and

WHEREAS, protecting children from addictive, intoxicating, and dangerous substances is a fundamental responsibility of government; and

WHEREAS, kratom products contain psychoactive alkaloids that act on the body's opioid receptors, and the primary alkaloid, mitragynine, is metabolized into 7-hydroxymitragynine ("7-OH"); concentrated or synthetically enhanced 7-OH products can produce potent opioid effects; intoxicating hemp-derived cannabinoids, including high-potency tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"), and other psychoactive substances such as mushrooms, tianeptine, and spice, are increasingly available at gas stations, smoke shops, convenience stores, and online; and

WHEREAS, some of these products are sold in colorful, youth-appealing packaging resembling candy, beverages, or other familiar products, without child proofing and may contain multiple servings in packaging that appears intended for single use; and

WHEREAS, these products may be inadequately regulated and lack reliable standards for potency, testing, labeling, packaging, age verification, and recalls, creating risks, including fatal overdoses (particularly when combined with other substances), for children and families; and

WHEREAS, the use of these substances may occur alongside opioid misuse or opioid use disorder, and evidence-informed education addressing co-occurring substance use can support opioid-abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has appropriately held opioid manufacturers and distributors accountable for conduct contributing to addiction, overdose, and widespread harm, and consistency demands similar urgency toward emerging products like kratom marketed or made readily accessible to youth; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") authorizes settlement funds for specific opioid prevention, education, outreach, overdose-response, first responder, research, and co-occurring substance use initiatives; and

WHEREAS, consistent with those approved purposes, opioid-abatement education may address misleading serving sizes, concentrated intoxicating products, co-occurring substance use and effects, and the use of naloxone to reverse opioid-like effects in a suspected kratom or 7-OH overdose; and

WHEREAS, the Pikes Peak Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council is committed to using its authority, platform, and resources consistently with the MOU to support prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and community coalitions;

WHEREAS, the Colorado Attorney General's recent $152,000.00 settlement resolving allegations of unlawful 7-OH product sales that exceeded the potency limit at smoke shops, together with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's notice of intent to temporarily place concentrated 7-OH into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, underscores the need for continued state enforcement and public attention to emerging drug threats in retail markets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Pikes Peak Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council calls upon the current Governor and Attorney General, to include future administrations, the Colorado General Assembly, and appropriate state agencies to:

1. Take action to protect children from predatory industries selling dangerous substances (such as kratom and high-potency THC, and other unregulated drug products) that are easily accessible to youth; and
2. Make protecting children from emerging drug threats a sustained public-health priority; and
3. Apply consistent accountability to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers that profit from addictive or intoxicating products; and
4. To the extent that products are deemed lawful, establish appropriate potency, testing, individual product labeling, packaging, age-verification, and marketing requirements; and
5. Prohibit marketing and packaging designed to appeal primarily to children.

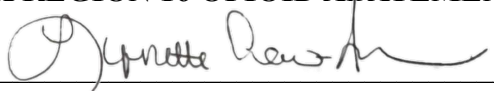
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Council supports education and prevention activities authorized by the Colorado Opioid MOU and affirms that all opioid-settlement expenditures maintain a direct connection to opioid prevention, recovery, overdose response, and other approved opioid-abatement purposes.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Pikes Peak Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council is using its public platform and lawful authority to elevate this issue as a forward-looking abatement strategy, educate the community about these co-occurring substance use threats, support prevention, and advocate for policy action and critical time interventions and prevention actions.

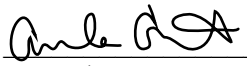
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that Colorado should demonstrate the same resolve in preventing the next substance-use crisis and co-occurring emerging drug threats that it has shown in seeking accountability for the opioid crisis, because Colorado families and children should not have to suffer widespread and preventable harm before government acts.

DONE THIS 28th day of October 2026 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

PIKES PEAK REGION 16 OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL

By: 

Lynette Crow-Iverson
Colorado Springs City Council/Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council Chair

Attest: 

Amanda Grant
El Paso County Deputy Chief Financial Officer/Fiscal Agent and Facilitator to the Council