



DOJ’s antitrust probe targets TV news outlets

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REBRANDING NICOTINE

Nicotine is the primary driver of tobacco addiction in the form of cigarettes, vapes and most other forms of commercial tobacco. The greatest health risks arise when tobacco is burned, which generates thousands of toxic substances.

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Movement touts addictive drug as beneficial, but dangers persist

Hasmeena Kathuria
University of Wisconsin-Madison
THE CONVERSATION

An ironic development emerging alongside the “Make America Healthy Again” movement is the portrayal of nicotine as a wellness and performance-enhancing product. Across social media, podcasts, wellness communities and tech startups, prominent wellness personalities and other influencers are portraying nicotine as a misunderstood compound whose potential benefits have been overshadowed by its negative association with cigarette smoking.

As a result, nicotine is being repositioned from an addictive substance linked to tobacco use to a natural product that can be used for everything from improving focus to protecting against cognitive decline. This trend includes use of nicotine alone in noncombustible products such as nicotine pouches, or in combination with caffeine and nootropics, which are substances marketed to enhance cognition.

As a pulmonary physician-scientist who studies nicotine addiction and the health consequences of tobacco and nicotine products, I am concerned about claims that nicotine can enhance wellness, productivity and cognitive performance.



Nicotine, in products such as nicotine pouches, is being repositioned from an addictive substance linked to tobacco use to a natural product that can be used for everything from improving focus to protecting against cognitive decline.

Distinguishing between nicotine and tobacco

Some of these claims stem from the observation that nicotine is a naturally occurring plant

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Clock fight pits science vs. politics

Disagreement persists on which time to adopt

Doyle Rice and Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Daylight is already fading, and soon Americans will set back the clocks, too. But this year, political support is building for doing away with seasonal time changes by switching to permanent daylight saving time.

That would be a mistake, scientists say.

A new report echoes a chorus of scientific research saying that permanent standard time is the best solution for eliminating the dreaded twice-yearly clock change.

People might enjoy daylight saving time for its later sunsets throughout the year. But standard time’s earlier sunrises are more in line with our body clocks, leading to better sleep and mood, authors of the report said.

For now, most of the nation is scheduled to set the clocks back Nov. 1, ending daylight saving time and returning to standard time. [All states except Arizona and Hawaii currently follow daylight saving time.]

The new analysis reviewed evidence on the public health implications of

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Kennedy launches new push on vaccine injuries

Ahmed Abouleinein
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last week launched an agencywide effort to study and document any health problems reported after vaccination, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Oct. 8.

The initiative is the latest step by Kennedy, who spent years questioning vaccine safety and founded an anti-vaccine group before taking office, to reshape federal immunization policy.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says childhood vaccines are studied in placebo-controlled and comparison-group trials and monitored for safety after approval.

The federal Vaccine Injury Table lists 14 compensable injuries across 16 vaccine types under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a no-fault system in which claimants file against the government, not vaccine makers. Since 1988, it has awarded roughly

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Green-card program targeted by Trump

Deborah Mary Sophia and Jaspreet Singh
REUTERS

The U.S. government said on Oct. 8 that it is suspending some major global tech and IT firms, including Microsoft and Cognizant, from a key green-card program that allows skilled foreign workers to gain permanent residency through their employment.

Senior U.S. officials cited alleged fraud as the reason behind the move, saying companies have been using the program to replace American workers with cheaper foreign workers. It comes as the latest

step in the Trump administration’s crackdown on skilled foreign labor.

What is under suspension?

The suspension is targeting a key employer-sponsorship mechanism, called the Permanent Labor Certification or PERM, which is used by major technology companies and outsourcing firms. The U.S. government said that for certain companies, it would not accept any new PERM applications or process any pending ones.

PERM went into effect in 2005, aiming to speed up the long processing times ex-

perienced under the previous paper-based “Alien Employment Certification” program.



Vance

Under PERM, the Labor Department allows an employer to sponsor a foreign worker’s permanent residency. The process is initiated by qualified U.S. employers, and not individual workers.

The Labor Department must certify to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

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