**Position:** The Epilepsy Foundation is committed to supporting physician directed care, and to exploring and advocating for all potential treatment options for epilepsy, including cannabidiol (CBD) oil and medical cannabis. We support safe, legal access to medical cannabis if a patient and their healthcare team feel that the potential benefits of medical cannabis for uncontrolled epilepsy outweigh the risks.

**About Epilepsy:** The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of nearly 3 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. We foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

**Background:** There is no "one size fits all" treatment for epilepsy, and about a third of people living with epilepsy suffer from uncontrolled or intractable seizures, despite currently available treatments. Uncontrolled seizures can lead to disability, injury, and even death. This is why people living with uncontrolled seizures turn to medical cannabis and CBD when other options have failed. Medical use of cannabis has been legalized in 23 states and the District of Columbia, and some people living with uncontrolled seizures have reported beneficial effects and reduced seizure activity when using medical cannabis, especially strains rich in CBD.

While not everyone with epilepsy should or would consider medical cannabis as a treatment option, some people living with uncontrolled seizures have reported beneficial effects and reduced seizure activity when using medical cannabis, especially strains rich in CBD. Furthermore, additional research is needed on the connection between cannabis and seizures.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Angela Ostrom, COO & Vice President Public Policy at aostrom@efa.org or 301-918-3766.**