

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Rosenberg, Acting Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Acting Administrator Rosenberg:

We, the undersigned organizations, on behalf of the millions of Americans living with chronic conditions, urge you to reschedule cannabis from Schedule I in the Controlled Substances Act in order to lift federal barriers to cannabis research.

Nearly half of all Americans, more than 117 million, suffer from at least one chronic health condition, and one in four adults have two or more chronic health conditions.¹ Our organizations represent millions of Americans living with chronic health conditions. We have seen firsthand the devastation that individuals and families suffer from chronic diseases and conditions and know families will pursue alternative treatment options, including medical cannabis, in their search for improved health outcomes.

Moving cannabis from Schedule I in the Controlled Substances Act would lift federal barriers to research on cannabis, which would ultimately lead to new treatments as well as much needed information that can help families make informed choices about medical cannabis. Currently it is difficult for scientists and researchers to organize clinical trials involving cannabis because it is a Schedule I substance and only the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) can cultivate cannabis for medical research. Despite this lack of research into the connection between cannabis and health outcomes, individuals turn to medical cannabis products and may fall victim to unscrupulous individuals selling unsafe products marketed as medical cannabis treatments with unverifiable claims.

We urge you to move cannabis from Schedule I in the Controlled Substances Act to remove federal barriers to research and pave the way for greater research and new treatments. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Angela Ostrom, chief operating officer and vice president of public policy at the Epilepsy Foundation, at aostrom@efa.org.

Sincerely,

*Americans for Safe Access
CURE, Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy
Danny Did Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Finding a Cure Against Epilepsy (FACES) at NYU Langone Medical Center
Hope for Harper
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas (HH)
International Foundation for CDKL5*

Lennox Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Parkinson's Action Network
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation (PMSF)
Ring14 USA Outreach
The AIDS Alliance
The Brain Recovery Project
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance (TSA)

¹ Ward BW, Schiller JS, Goodman RA. Multiple Chronic Conditions Among US Adults: A 2012 Update. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2014;11:130389. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd11.130389>