



June 24, 2019

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin,

On behalf of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) and the Parkinson's Foundation, the nation's two largest Parkinson's disease organizations, we write to express our support and appreciation for your *Expanding Cannabis Research and Information Act*. This bill reclassifies cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III, which will remove the barriers medical researchers encounter when conducting research on medical cannabis and health benefits.

As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's disease (PD) research, MJFF is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's and developing improved therapies. In providing more than \$800 million in research funding to date, MJFF has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress towards a cure. The Parkinson's Foundation makes life better for people with PD by improving care and advancing research toward a cure. In everything it does, it builds on the energy, experience and passion of the global Parkinson's community. It is estimated that approximately 1 million people in the United States are living with Parkinson's disease (PD), with an estimated annual economic burden of \$52 billion of which, the federal government pays \$25 billion in Medicare, SSI and SSDI costs.

MJFF and Parkinson's Foundation advocate on behalf of the PD community, and are committed to exploring new treatment options for those living with the disease. This includes a desire to conduct research on cannabis to determine its potential therapeutic use. At this time, there has not been enough research done on medical cannabis to determine whether it is an effective treatment option. Eliminating barriers to research invites scientists to determine if medical cannabis may or may not safely and effectively help patients manage the symptoms associated with PD.

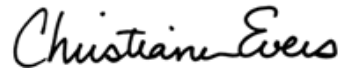
Current regulations surrounding cannabis block comprehensive medical research on the drug and its constituent compounds. Because of its federal classification as a Schedule I drug, coupled with the low quantity and quality of cannabis produced by the sole federally-approved growing site, researchers do not have the proper materials to conduct the necessary research. The *Expanding Cannabis Research and Information Act* would streamline the application process for researchers and expand the number of suppliers of medical-grade cannabis for research. These research-focused solutions allow for scientists to conduct more comprehensive research to determine if medical cannabis is an effective treatment for PD patients.

We applaud you for authoring this important piece of legislation, and thank you for your support of advancing medical research. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christiana Evers at cevers@parkinson.org or 646-388-7620, or Aaron Polacek at apolacek@michaeljfox.org or 202-638-4101 x 252.

Sincerely,



Ted Thompson, JD
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
The Michael J. Fox Foundation



Christiana Evers
Vice President,
Chief Community Engagement Officer
Parkinson's Foundation



September 24, 2019

The Honorable Donna Shalala
United States House of Representatives
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Gaetz
United States House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Shalala and Gaetz,

On behalf of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) and the Parkinson's Foundation, the nation's two largest Parkinson's disease organizations, we write to express our support and appreciation for your bill H.R.4322, the *Expanding Cannabis Research and Information Act*. This bill reclassifies cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III, which will remove the barriers medical researchers encounter when conducting research on medical cannabis and health benefits.

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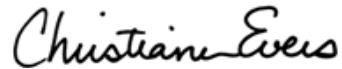
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