



# FRIENDS of NIDA

June 26, 2019

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein, Grassley, and Schatz:

The undersigned national organizations applaud your initiative to reduce regulatory burden and facilitate further research on marijuana and its constituent compounds. The newly introduced Cannabidiol and Marijuana Research Expansion Act would enable the expansion of the scientific research base on marijuana to answer critical questions, such as identifying potential therapeutic effects and possible public health consequences.

Through a number of sensible changes, this proposed legislation would greatly reduce the current obstacles to Schedule I registration and related review procedures. The bill improves interagency efficiency by requiring the Department of Justice (DoJ) to approve applications for registration to conduct research on marijuana if researchers' protocols have already been reviewed and allowed by other federal science agencies and adequate security measures are in place to prevent abuse and diversion. The process is further expedited by the requirement that the DoJ either approve the application or request supplement information within 60 days. Additionally, processes to request an increase in the quantity of the substance being used for an approved research protocol is both simplified and expedited by instituting a 30-day review period.

Should this bill be enacted, it would enable the expansion of research on marijuana and its constituent compounds by allowing qualified scientists to use their existing registrations to conduct research and clinical trials and by authorizing medical and osteopathic schools, research universities, and pharmaceutical companies to manufacture their own marijuana to conduct research. Allowing institutes properly registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to import marijuana, marijuana seeds, or CBD for medical research purposes eliminates yet another barrier. Together, these provisions greatly reduce the existing obstacles to the cannabinoid medication development.

Thank you for introducing the Cannabidiol and Marijuana Research Expansion Act. Our organizations represent a range of scientific, professional, patient, provider, and advocacy groups which may differ on policies related to the legal status of marijuana, but are united in their support of scientific research. We recognize the growing need to understand the basic pharmacology and potential therapeutic benefits of cannabinoids as well as any deleterious effects. We are eager to assist in any way we can as this bill receives further consideration.

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Sincerely,

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