

[Representative Rush Cosponsors IAVA-Backed Cannabis Research Legislation](#)

WASHINGTON, DC (March 14, 2018) – Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the leading voice of the Post-9/11 generation of veterans, is proud to announce that U.S. Rep Bobby Rush (D-IL) has become a cosponsor of the *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act* (S. 179/H.R. 712). Rep. Rush became a co-sponsor during IAVA's [Storm The Hill](#) – IAVA's quarterly advocacy push in Washington, DC.

The legislation authorizes the VA to conduct research into the safety and effectiveness of medical cannabis as a treatment for veterans with chronic pain, PTSD, and other conditions. It also requires the VA to report to Congress at least yearly on the implementation of the research.

Congressman Rush was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1992 and represents the South Side of Chicago. He currently sits on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy.

“Since 2017, IAVA has made it one of our top priorities to empower veterans who are calling for the medicinal use of cannabis to treat the wounds of war,” **said IAVA CEO Jeremy Butler**. “We appreciate Rep Rush’s support for advancing this bipartisan bill that simply begins research at the VA to determine whether medicinal cannabis use is effective and if it is safe.” The *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act*, sponsored by Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), now has 4 Senate cosponsors, plus 46 in the House. The bill is among [IAVA's Big Six priorities for 2019](#), including Suicide Prevention, Government Reform, #SheWhoBorneTheBattle, #DefendTheGIBill, and Burn Pits/Toxic Exposure Injury Support.