

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the US service members and veterans we represent, we call on Congress to expeditiously pass the *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act* (S.1467/H.R. 2916) before the end of the 117th Congress.

For decades, many veterans have called for medicinal cannabis as an option for treating the unseen wounds of war and other injuries sustained through service. Veterans and caregivers have consistently communicated their anecdotal experiences regarding how cannabis offers effective treatment in tackling some of the most pressing health concerns they face upon returning from war.

While many in the veteran community support legalization for medical purposes, the two most important questions still exist: “Is it safe?” and “Is it effective?” This is why our community has prioritized the passage of the *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act*, which would require the VA to research the safety and efficacy of medicinal cannabis.

We remain committed to the VA’s goal of conducting research into the efficacy of medicinal cannabis as a treatment for veterans with chronic pain, PTSD, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. However, as a Schedule I drug under the FDA, research into the efficacy of cannabis has been stagnant, cumbersome, and convoluted with red tape. Federal research into cannabis faces many bureaucratic hurdles that hinder researchers. In January 2017, the National Academy of Sciences found “conclusive or substantial” evidence that cannabis is effective in treating chronic pain and evidence that cannabis helps with PTSD, depression, and anxiety. However, FDA’s schedule I classification continues to stymie research.

We call on Congress to pass the *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act* to evaluate the efficacy of cannabis in treating the unseen wounds of war for all veterans.

Sincerely,
Air Force Sergeants Association
AMVETS

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Balanced Veterans Network
CommonDefense.us
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans
Military Chaplains Association
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Minority Veterans of America
Modern Military Association of America
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Partners in PROMISE
Psycharmor
Student Veterans of America
TREA: The Retired Enlisted Association
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
Veterans for Common Sense
VetsFirst/United Spinal Association