



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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June 28, 2019

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

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

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

Dear Senators Feinstein, Grassley, and Schatz:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and its physician and medical student members, I am pleased to write in support of S. 2032, the “Cannabidiol and Marijuana Research Expansion Act.” This legislation would improve the process for conducting scientific and clinical research on cannabidiol (CBD) and marijuana, and streamline the development of safe and effective cannabinoid-based drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The AMA is very concerned with the growing public support and legislative efforts at all levels of government to legalize the medical use of cannabis. This has resulted in many individuals using marijuana-derived products that have not been approved by the FDA. This seems to be the reverse of what a safe and effective medical marijuana framework should be.

Many states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws making the medical use of cannabis legal at the state level, even though such use is still illegal at the federal level. The AMA believes, however, that scientifically valid and well-controlled clinical trials conducted under federal investigational new drug applications are necessary to assess the safety and effectiveness of all new drugs, including potential cannabis products for medical use. Cannabis and its compounds, in particular CBD, has been found to have some therapeutic benefits. However, legal and regulatory barriers to cannabis and cannabinoid research have left physicians and patients without the evidence needed to understand the health effects of these products and make sound clinical decisions regarding their use.

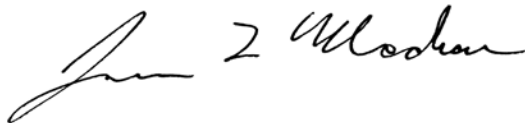
AMA policy supports adequate and well-controlled studies of marijuana and related cannabinoids in patients who have serious conditions for which preclinical, anecdotal, or controlled

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evidence suggests possible efficacy and the application of such results to the understanding and treatment of disease. We believe that your legislation, by helping to streamline the approval process for granting schedule I licenses to research marijuana or to grow it for research, will improve the process and increase the amount of needed research. In addition, by streamlining the development of safe and effective cannabinoid-based drugs, the legislation will help enable increased clinical trials to study such products for potential medical use.

We applaud your leadership in introducing this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "M".

James L. Madara, MD