

# THE MEDICAL CANNABIS & CANNABINOID ACT

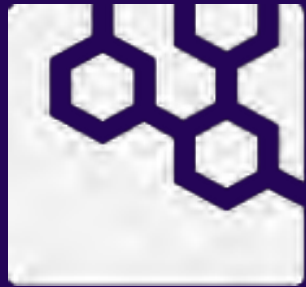
A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SAFE  
ACCESS & REGULATORY CONTROL



**Americans for  
Safe Access**

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics





# Americans for Safe Access

The mission of Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is to ensure safe and legal access to cannabis (marijuana) for therapeutic uses & research. Founded in 2002, ASA advocates for a national regulatory framework that invests in the development of standardized cannabis-based products, ensures a safe & consistent supply, fosters the integration of cannabis into patient treatment plans as a frontline medication, encourages insurance coverage, & prohibits employment, housing, parental & healthcare discrimination.

# MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENT-

[*me-di-kəl ka-nə-bəs pā-shənt*] n. a person living with a medical condition or experiencing symptoms for which cannabis or a cannabinoid-based therapeutic is the only treatment option, a more suitable option, or works as an adjunct treatment including side-effect mitigation to other available care options.

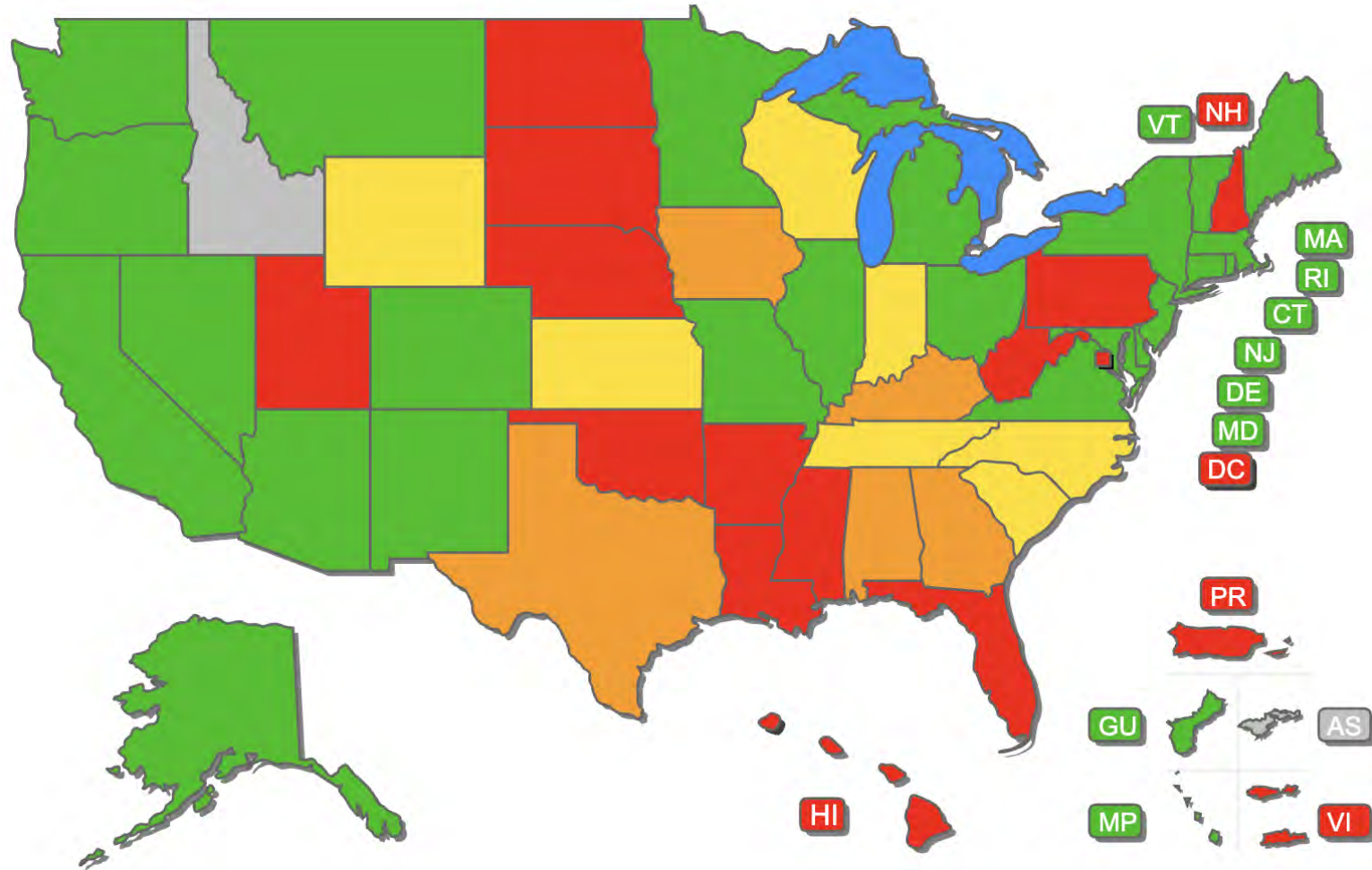




# MEDICAL CANNABIS IN AMERICA



**Since 1996, states 49 states, 4 territories & D.C. have passed medical cannabis laws.**



[T]he Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health found that more than **30,000 HCPs [Healthcare Providers]** are authorized to **recommend the use of marijuana for more than six million registered patients**, constituting widespread clinical experience associated with various medical conditions recognized by a substantial number of jurisdictions across the United States. For several jurisdictions, these programs have been in place for several years and include features that actively monitor medical use and product quality characteristics of marijuana dispensed.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
21 CFR Part 1301  
[Docket No. DEA-1362]  
RIN 1117-AB77  
**Schedules of Controlled Substances:  
Rescheduling of Marijuana**  
AGENCY: Drug Enforcement  
Administration, Department of Justice.

- **DEA, DOJ: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:  
Schedules of Controlled Substances:  
Rescheduling of Marijuana May 21, 2024**

“—

Over two-thirds (68.9%) of clinicians surveyed believe that cannabis has medicinal uses, and just over a quarter (26.6%) had ever recommended cannabis to a patient.

—”

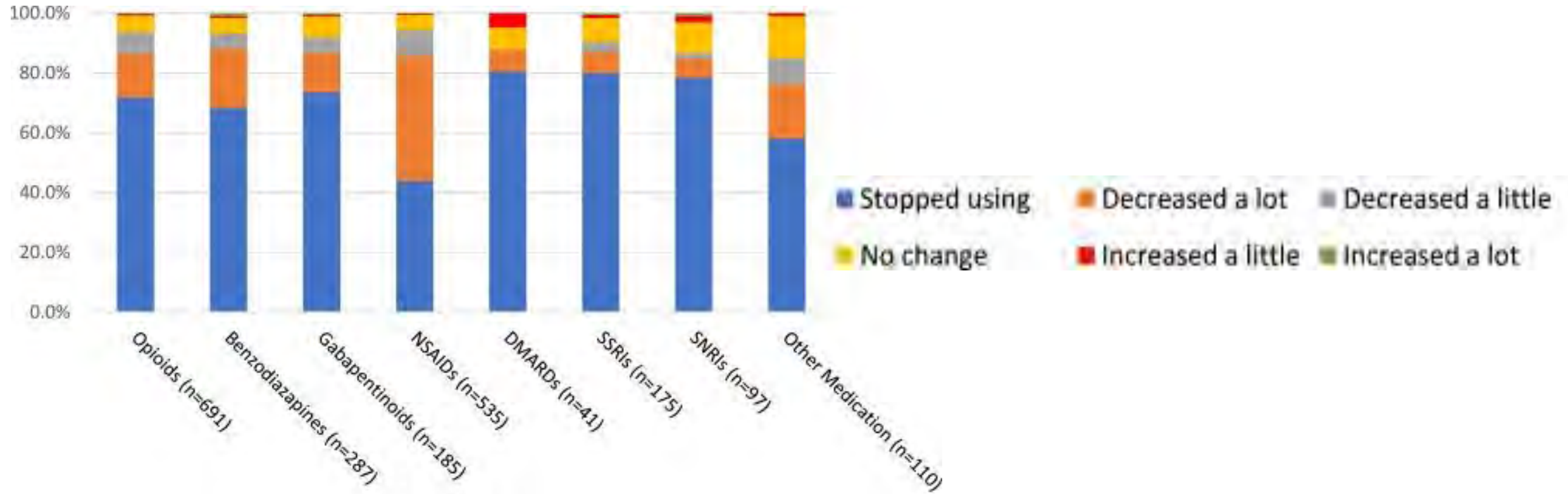
Schauer GL, Njai R, Grant AM. Clinician Beliefs and Practices Related to Cannabis. Cannabis Cannabinoid Res. 2022 Aug;7(4):508-515. doi: 10.1089/can.2020.0165. Epub 2021 Apr 26. PMID: 33998899; PMCID: PMC9418355.

“  
Medical cannabis treatment was associated with **improvements in pain severity and interference observed at one month and maintained over the 12-month observation period**. Significant improvements were also observed in **physical and mental health domains starting at three months**. Significant **decreases in headaches, fatigue, anxiety, and nausea were observed after initiation of treatment**. In patients who reported opioid medication use at baseline, there were **significant reductions in oral morphine equivalent doses**, while correlates of pain were **significantly improved** by the end of the study observation period. **Conclusions.** Taken together, the findings of this study add to the cumulative **evidence in support of plant-based medical cannabis as a safe and effective treatment option and potential opioid medication substitute or augmentation therapy for the management of symptoms and quality of life in chronic pain patients.**”

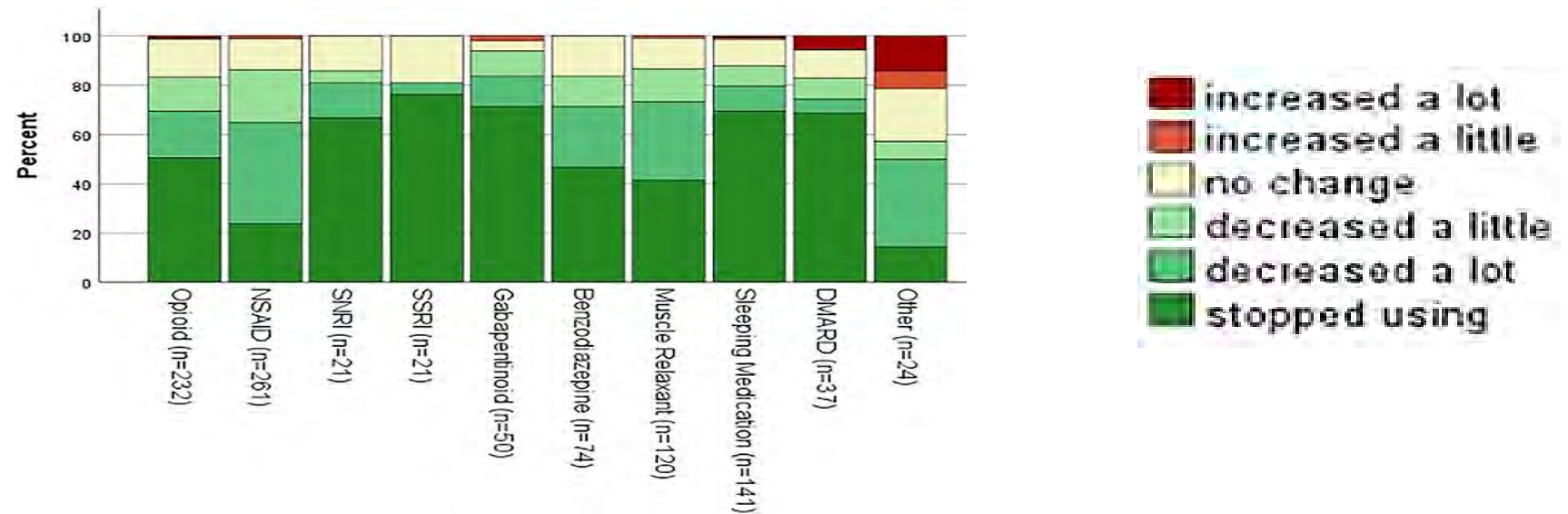
**END PAIN  
NOT LIVES**  
**MAKE CANNABIS AN OPTION**  
A PROJECT OF AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS

Safakish R, Ko G, Salimpour V, Hendin B, Sohanpal I, Loheswaran G, Yoon SYR. **Medical Cannabis for the Management of Pain and Quality of Life in Chronic Pain Patients: A Prospective Observational Study.** Pain Med. 2020 Nov 1;21(11):3073-3086. doi: 10.1093/pm/pnaa163. PMID: 32556203.

# SUBSTITUTION OF CANNABIS FOR PAIN MEDICATION



***Pills to Pot: Observational Analyses of Cannabis Substitution Among Medical Cannabis Users With Chronic Pain*** Kevin F. Boehnke, J. Ryan Scott, Evangelos Litinas, Suzanne Sisley, David A. Williams, Daniel J. Clauw; *The Journal of Pain* Volume 20 Issue 7 Pages 830-841 (July 2019)



A study in ACR Open Rheumatology, found that 62.5% of participants substituted medical cannabis for medications, with 54.7% replacing NSAIDs, 48.6% opioids, 29.6% sleep aids, and 25.2% muscle relaxants. Following substitution, most reported a reduction or cessation in their use of these medications.

Boehnke KF, Scott JR, Martel MO, Smith T, Bergmans RS, Kruger DJ, Williams DA, Fitzcharles MA. Substituting Medical Cannabis for Medications Among Patients with Rheumatic Conditions in the United States and Canada. ACR Open Rheumatol. 2024 Dec;6(12):826-835. doi: 10.1002/acr2.11717. Epub 2024 Sep 5. PMID: 39236308; PMCID: PMC11638128.



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**



IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN  
VETERANS OF AMERICA



# MEDICAL CANNABIS LAWS HAVE LIMITED FEDERAL PROTECTIONS

**First passed by Congress in 2014 as the Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment, this amendment to the Commerce, Justice, & Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill created a “ceasefire” of federal interference in state medical cannabis laws.**



**“None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.”**

# CONGRESS DETERMINES WHO CAN & CAN'T HAVE ACCESS



## **DENIAL OF SERVICES**

Federal prohibition prevents medical cannabis patients from accessing services such as subsidized housing, Veterans Affairs benefits, and Medicare.

## **PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS**

Federal cannabis laws restrict the geographical mobility of patients, affecting their ability to travel, relocate for work, or pursue higher education.

## **HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY**

Federal restrictions also extend to healthcare settings, where cannabis use is frequently prohibited in hospitals, hospices, and assisted living facilities.

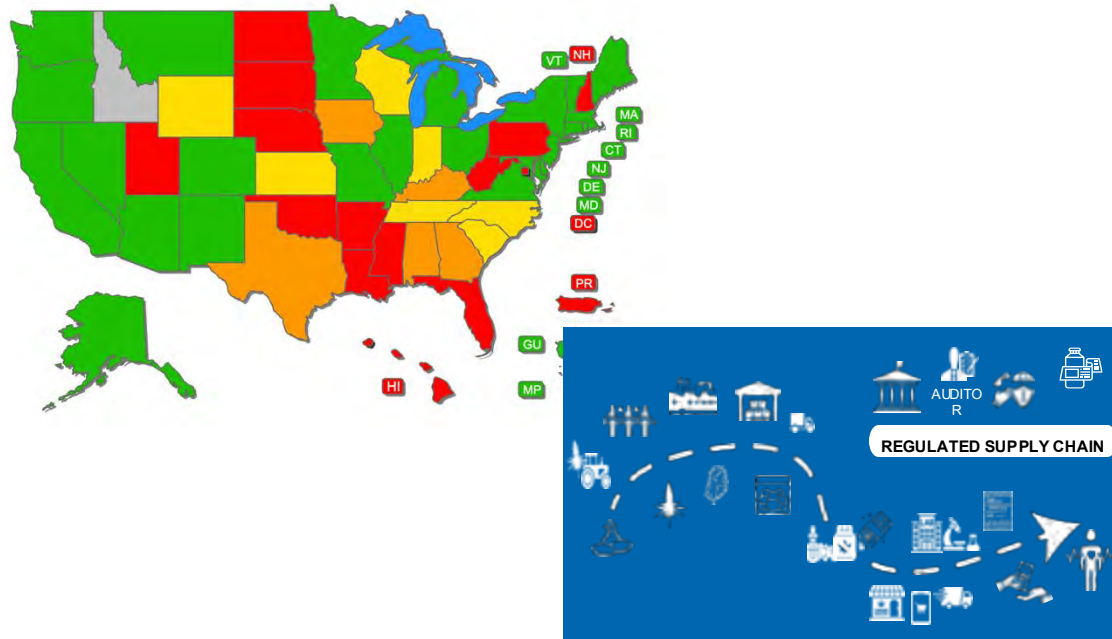
## **ADA**

Medical cannabis patients are not protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

## **2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS**

Federal laws restrict the rights of medical cannabis patients to own firearms, conflating responsible medical use with unlawful drug use.

# CURRENT STATE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN U.S. MARKETS



**REGULATED STATE MARKETS**

**&**



**UNREGULATED HEMP MARKET**

# GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE IMPACT PATIENT OUTCOMES



RESEARCH



MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION



PATIENT NEEDS  
& EXPERIENCES



PRODUCT  
DEVELOPMENT

# STATES HAVE FULFILLED THEIR ROLE AS "LABORATORIES OF DEMOCRACY"



*Initially created as "triage" to remove patients off the battlefield of the war on drugs, the state cannabis access experiment has run its course.*

20

State-level medical cannabis programs function separately from healthcare systems, resulting in financial, geographical, and legal obstacles for numerous patients, ultimately catering primarily to a privileged demographic of Americans.



Patients are Unable to Use Cannabis in Hospice or Travel to Attend Life Events. Federal employees and active military are barred from participating in state programs. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Medicare do not cover cannabis treatments, keeping them out of reach for millions.

9,000,000	VETERANS USING VA HEALTH SERVICES
1,870,000	FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
112,846,000	AMERICANS LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN
2,100,000	AMERICANS IN SECTION 8 HOUSING (23% ARE DISABLED)
1,720,000	AMERICANS IN HOSPICE
630,000	US POSTAL WORKERS
37,900,000	AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY

# STATES ARE MERGING ADULT USE & MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAMS TO THE DETRIMENT OF PATIENTS



**PROVIDERS MOVE TO SERVE ADULT-USE CONSUMERS.**  
Suppositories, sublinguals, high-CBD/low THC, 50/50 CBD/THC, & other cannabinoid profiles disappear.



**DISCRIMINATION & STIGMA** Adult-use laws do not include civil protections.



**Excludes 18-21-year-old & pediatric patients.**



**LIMITED ACCESS:** Cities frequently ban adult-use retail. Quantity restrictions don't accommodate patient needs.



**Patients need access to experts to help guide them toward the right products & dosing guidelines.**



FDA STATEMENT

# **FDA Concludes that Existing Regulatory Frameworks for Foods and Supplements are Not Appropriate for Cannabidiol, Will Work with Congress on a New Way Forward**

**For Immediate Release:** January 26, 2023

**Statement From:** Janet Woodcock, M.D.  
Principal Deputy Commissioner - Office of the Commissioner

# The Great Hemp Hoax:

Much of what's sold as "hemp" today isn't hemp at all — it's a mix of synthetic intoxicants and illicit THC masquerading as a legal, natural product.

Compound	Scientific Name	Delta-9 THC Equivalency (multiple)
Delta-9 THCP	<i>Trans-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabiphorol</i>	30.00 <sup>43</sup>
Delta-8 THCP	<i>Trans-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabiphorol</i>	20.10 <sup>44</sup>
Delta-9 THCO	<i>Delta-9-THC-O-acetate</i>	3.00 <sup>45</sup>
Delta-8 THCO	<i>Delta-9-THC-O-acetate</i>	2.01 <sup>46</sup>
HHCO Acetate	<i>Hexahydrocannabinol-O-acetate</i>	1.50 <sup>47</sup>
HHC	<i>Hexahydrocannabinol</i>	1.00 <sup>48</sup>
THCA	<i>Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid</i>	0.877 <sup>49,50</sup>
Delta-8 THC	<i>Delta-8-Tetrahydrocannabinol</i>	0.67 <sup>51</sup>
CBN	<i>Cannabinol</i>	0.25 <sup>52</sup>





# ALL STAKEHOLDERS AGREE, IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT!



# FEDERAL MEDICAL CANNABIS & CANNABINOID POLICY NEEDS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

**The Medical Cannabis Amendment to the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill**, first passed in 2014, was meant to be a triage measure to stop raids and prosecutions while Congress dealt with federal medical cannabis policies.

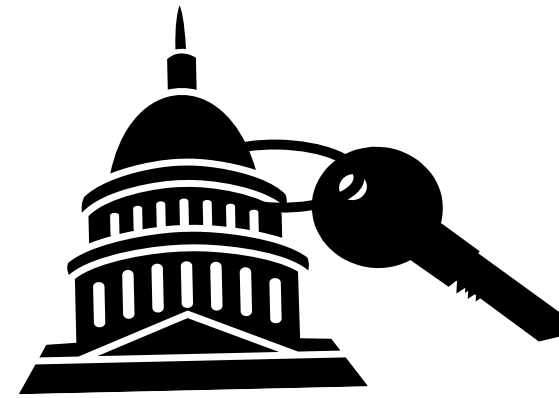
**The Hemp Authorization of the 2018 Farm Bill** removed cannabis with  $<.3\%$  THC from the CSA and failed to define “hemp products.” The bill implied that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would regulate these products; however, in January 2023, the FDA told Congress they do not have the authority to regulate the products without new authorities.

There is confusion for **federal agencies in dealing with cannabis, forcing many to create “workaround” policies for cannabis** without the benefit of medical cannabis policy experts to guide them, and most agencies have found themselves in court trying to navigate the state-federal conflict.

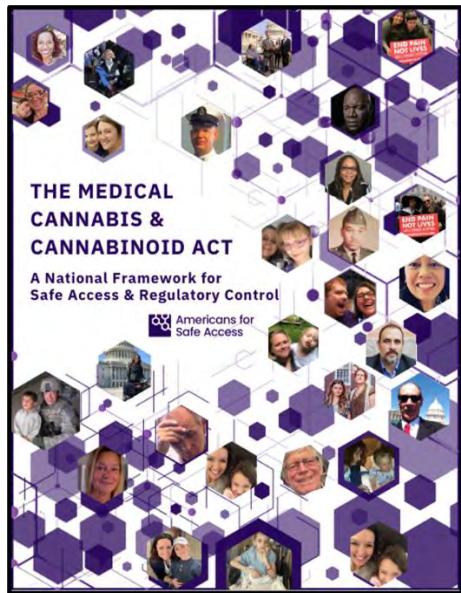
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that **cannabis has “accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.”**



# ASA'S PROPOSAL



## A NATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM



**ESTABLISH-**

**THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS  
& CANNABINOID CONTROL (OMC)**

**CREATE-**

**SCHEDULE VI (UNDER OMC OVERSIGHT)**

# INTEGRATE CANNABIS INTO U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



**A**



STANDARDIZE  
TERMINOLOGY



RESEARCH  
TOOLS



HEALTH CLAIMS  
& DOSAGE



PRODUCT  
PROTOCOLS

**B**



# THE MEDICAL CANNABIS & CANNABINOID ACT



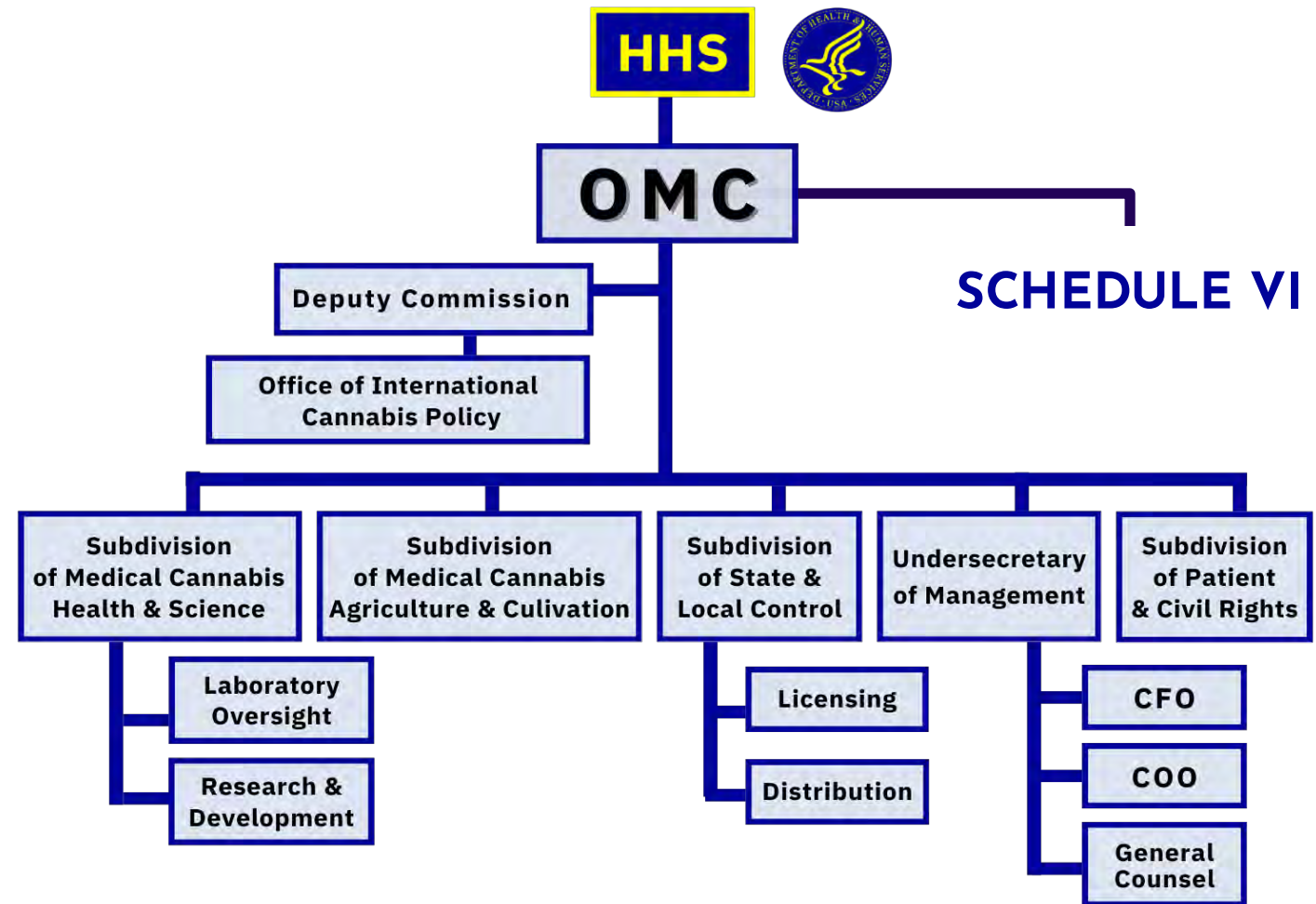
**The Office of Medical Cannabis & Cannabinoid Control's mission is to facilitate access to medical cannabis for therapeutic use & research, regulate the production of medical cannabis & cannabinoid products, & oversee the new Schedule VI.**

**Housed in HHS**

**Brings US in compliance  
with UN Drug Treaties**

**Coordinates cannabis matters  
across federal agencies &  
with state regulators**

**Funded by agency reorganization,  
licensing & permitting fees,  
& public-private partnerships**



# SCHEDULE VI (& SCHEDULE VI-A)



- ☐ Regulated by OMC.
- ☐ Covers ALL cannabinoid products intended for human and animal consumption.
- ☐ Includes oversight for non-intoxicating cannabinoid products (Schedule VI-A).



- ☐ Laboratory, pharmacy, research and transportation permitting and cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution licensing (no restrictions for prior drug convictions for permits or licenses).



- ☐ Schedule VI permits granted to state licensed medical cultivators and manufacturers in Phase 1 for continuity of access.

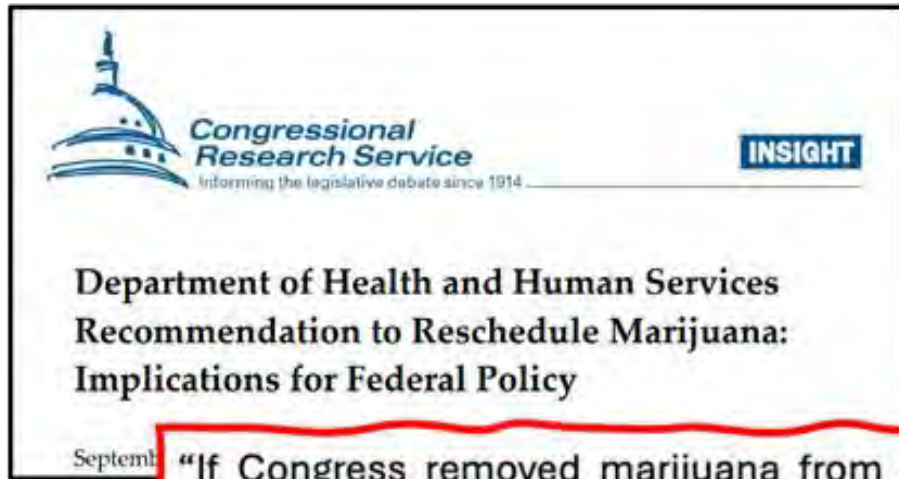


- ☐ Schedule VI specialty pharmacy licenses for access points/dispensaries.
- ☐ Interstate commerce allowed between VI permitted/licensed businesses.
- ☐ No criminal penalties associated with Schedule VI.



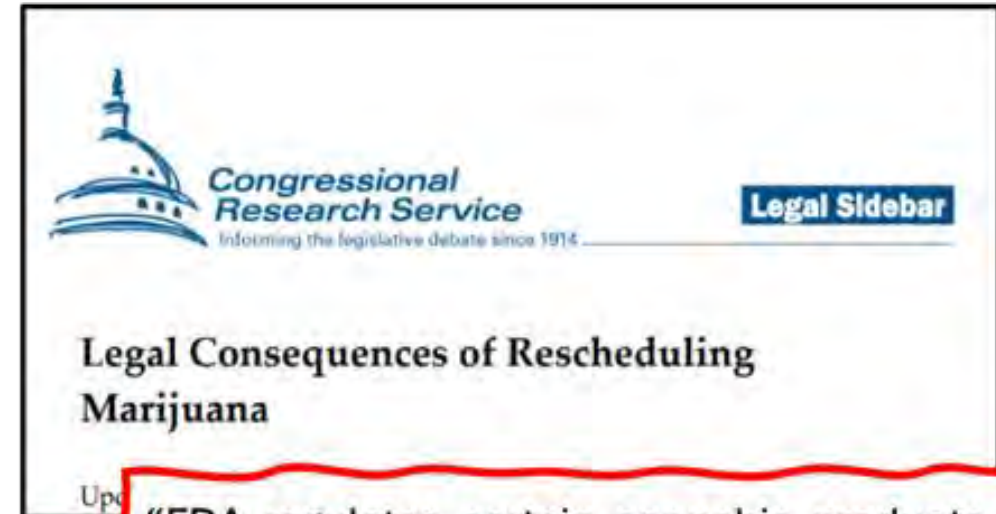
- ☐ Patients would have all protections granted to any other prescription recipient.
- ☐ OMC will create policy to transform state-based “physician recommendations” to specialized prescriptions.

# ASA'S APPROACH IS POSSIBLE



"If Congress removed marijuana from Schedule I, it might (1) place marijuana on one of the other schedules of controlled substances, (2) create another schedule or separate classification for marijuana under the CSA, or (3) remove marijuana as a controlled substance altogether."

Department of Health and Human Services  
Recommendation to Reschedule Marijuana: Implications  
for Federal Policy" -September 13, 2023, CRS Report



"FDA regulates certain cannabis products under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Congress might also consider whether to alter that regulatory regime or create some alternative regulatory framework."

"Legal Consequences of Rescheduling Marijuana".  
January 16th, 2024 (updated May 1, 2024), CRS report

# NATIONAL CANNABIS PROGRAM ROLE OUT

## FIRST 60 DAYS

- New Schedule Created: Schedule VI
- Office of Cannabis & Cannabinoid Control (OMC) established
- Commissioner & Under Secretary of OMC Appointed
- Direct agencies to update cannabis policies
- Provisional Schedule, VI & specialty pharmacy permits, issued with protocols for interstate distribution



Title I- Office of Medical Cannabis & Cannabinoid Control  
Sec. 801: Amend Controlled Substance Act  
Sec. 802- Amend Hemp Authorization Act.

Sec. 602- Notification to Agencies  
Title VII- Implementation  
Sec. 604- Continuity of care  
Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan  
Sec. 705- Advisory Committee



**HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT-** Exempt the medical use of cannabis from drug-free housing policies & tax credits.



**VETERAN AFFAIRS-**Update policies to allow agency physicians to recommend medical cannabis, amend policies that impact VA benefits, & add cannabis therapeutics to intake forms.



**OFFICE OF PERSONAL MANAGEMENT-** Update hiring and employment policies concerning past or current cannabis use & create process for agencies to reinstate or appeal past actions.



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE-** Review & formalize guidelines in 2013 DOJ Cole Memo & expunge all non-violent federal cannabis convictions & adjudications for & any arrests associated with each.



**TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION-**Cannabis does not need to be confiscated



**BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES-** Remove cannabis warning from Form 4473



**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE-** Permit medical cannabis businesses with Schedule VI permits/licenses to file as legal business & create process for these business to refile tax returns with deductions to lower or eliminate tax debt.



**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES-** Inform hospitals, health clinics, rehabilitation centers, hospice services providers, their medical professionals, or any other patient service provider that participating in medical cannabis programs or allowing clients/patients in their care to lawfully possess and/or consume cannabis products in their care will not jeopardize HHS funding or any accreditations.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY-** Provide guidance for financial institutions on providing banking services, loans, & any other financial services to Schedule VI licensed businesses.



**THE STATE DEPARTMENT** -Work visa eligibility includes employment with any businesses with a Schedule VI permit/license.



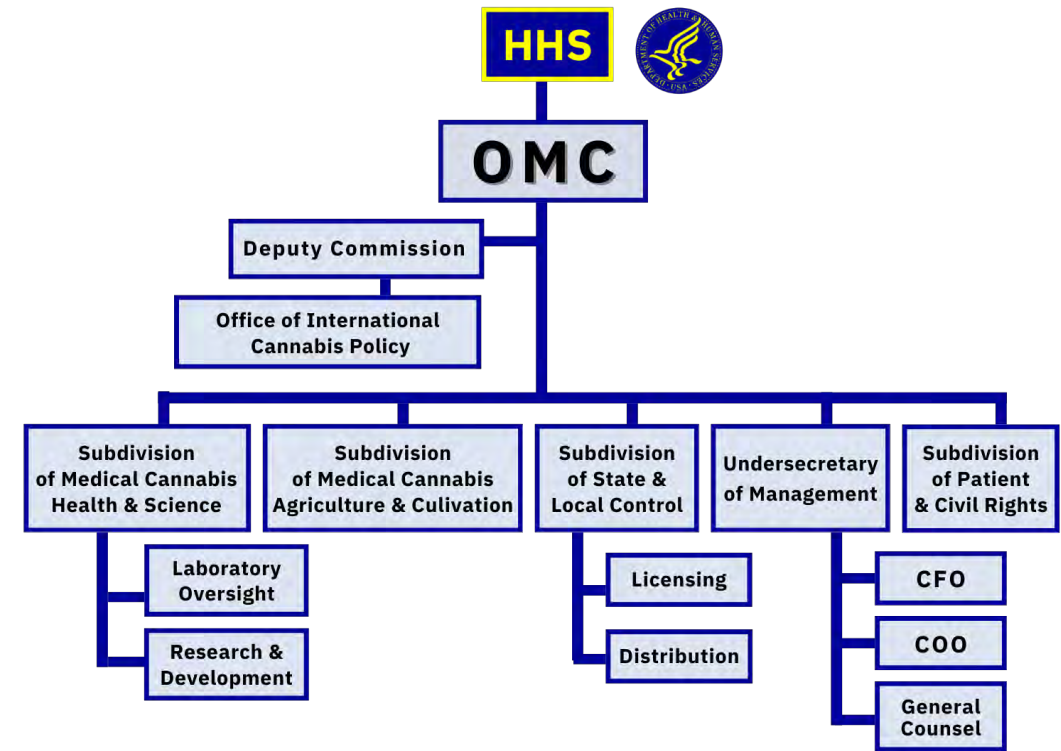
**FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION-** Issue requirements for products containing cannabinoids to include 1) source of the cannabinoid 2) "The safety of this product has not been evaluated by the FDA" 3) "This product has not been tested for contaminants" or a QR code to Certificate of Analysis & 4) Batch number on labels.

**ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES-** Cannabis is no longer a factor for federal employees, contractors or officers.

# NATIONAL CANNABIS PROGRAM ROLE OUT

## FIRST 12 MONTHS

- Agency Staffed
- Schedule VI licensing program launched
- Advisory groups seated
- Initiate research priority map with NIH
- OTC guidelines for cannabinoid products
- Determination of NDA requirements for synthetic cannabinoid & terpene products
- Establish safe additive list for Schedule VI products
- Labeling, research, & testing requirements for Schedule VI products established



**Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Sec. 404,  
Sec. 501, & Sec. 504-Staffing Subdivisions**

**Sec. 303- Transfer Of Functions**

**Sec. 701- Licensing and Permits; General Provisions**

**Sec. 305- Cannabis Production; State & Tribal Plans**

**Sec. 306- Effect on Industrial Hemp**

**Sec. 701- Licensing & Permits; General Provisions**

**Sec. 702- Specialty Licensing**

# NATIONAL CANNABIS PROGRAM ROLE OUT

## FIRST 24 MONTHS

Sec. 701- Licensing & Permits

Title VI- Transition Subtitle A- Coordination with Agencies

Sec. 306- Effect on Industrial Hemp

Sec. 701- (d) Imports, Exports

Sec. 204- Research & Development Center





Sec. 704- Prescription Protocols

- Guidance for “prescription system” & importation/exportation of Schedule VI ingredients & products issued
- Guidance to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for Schedule VI product coverage
- OMC establishes private-public partnerships for research with NIH
- Each federal DOJ district completes comprehensive review & expungement of all adjudicated & non-adjudicated cannabis cases
- Initiate process for producing guidance document for health claims for Schedule VI products issued
- Guidance for environmental impact & sustainable agricultural practices



# NATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

## PHASE I

-  = FINISHED PRODUCTS
-  = RAW INGREDIENTS
-  = PERMITTED BY STATE
-  = SCHEDULE VI PROVISIONAL PERMIT
-  = STATE/TRIBAL LICENSE



CULTIVATION



PROCESSORS



MANUFACTURERS



TESTING LABS



B2B TRANSPORT



RESEARCHERS



Schedule VI products with permits can move across US between permitted businesses



HOME CULTIVATION

STATE-ID CARDS REMAIN VALID



DISPENSARY



HOSPITAL/HOSPICE ASSISTED LIVING

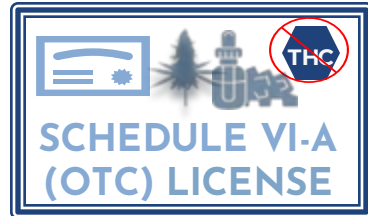


CBD & Hemp derived products will remain available in retail markets as they transition into regulated market.

# NATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

## PHASE II

### SCHEDULE VI LICENSES & PERMITS



HOSPITAL/HOSPICE  
ASSISTED LIVING



PHARMACY



DISPENSARY-  
SPECIALTY PHARMACY



STATE ID CARDS  
REMAIN IN EFFECT



HOME  
CULTIVATION



### RETAIL OUTLETS

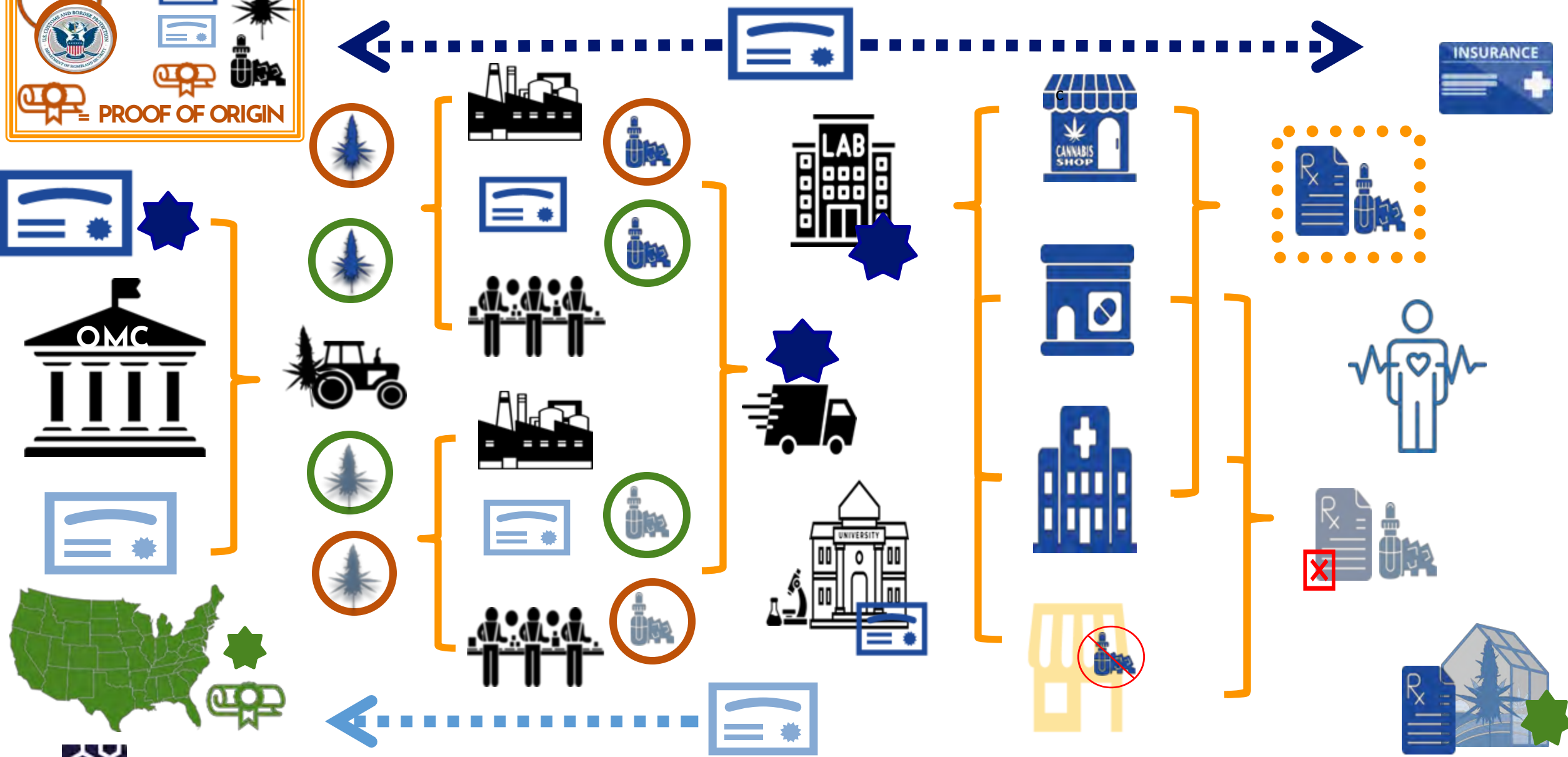


**Schedule VI-A**  
License is not required  
for retailers, but  
selling unregulated  
Schedule VI products  
carries fines.

**IMPORT/EXPORT**

**PROOF OF ORIGIN**

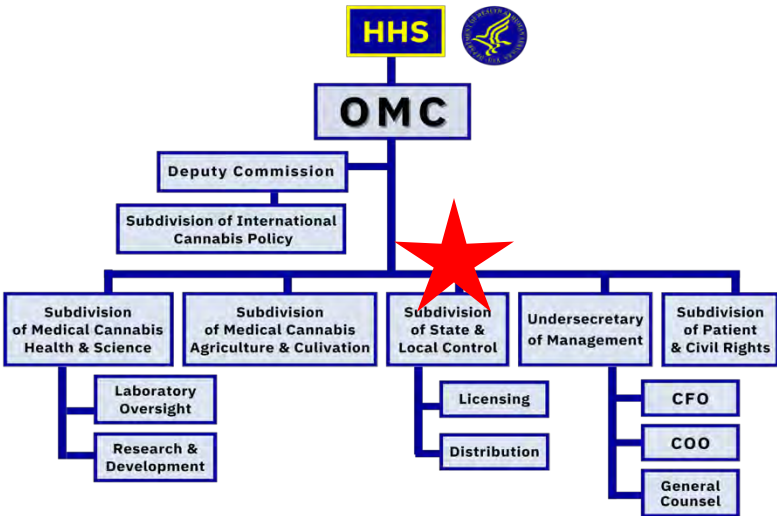
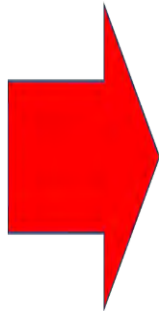
# NATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM PHASE III



# OMC STRUCTURE & AGENCY TRANSITION

- Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan
- TITLE VII- Implementation
- Sec. 305- Cannabis Production; State & Tribal Plans
- Sec. 705– Advisory Committee

# SEC. 501- SUBDIVISION OF TRIBAL, STATE, & LOCAL CONTROL



- Work with state regulators on Schedule VI Permits for state licensed medical cannabis businesses
- Create protocols for interstate sales & transportation
- Create vendor/licensee database



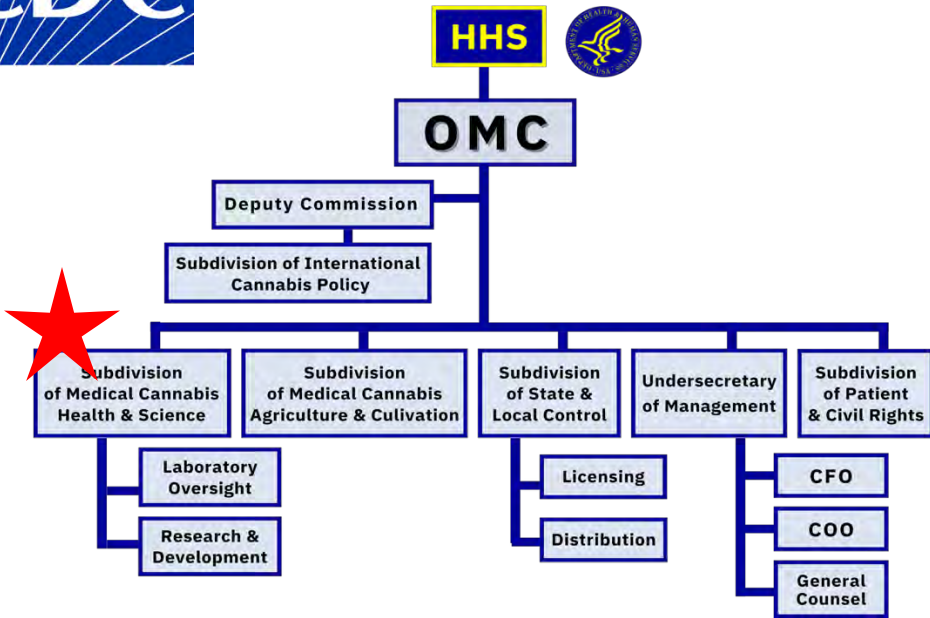
# TITLE II- SUBDIVISION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS HEALTH & SCIENCE

## OMC STRUCTURE & AGENCY TRANSITION

- Sec. 201-206
- Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan
- Title VII- Implementation
- Sec. 704– Prescription Protocols
- Sec. 205- Research, Testing, & Evaluation
- Sec. 705– Advisory Committee



- Work across agencies to create & fund research priority map
- Spearhead guidelines for standardization of testing & labeling
- Issue permits to laboratories for cannabis (schedule VI)
- Create prescription protocols & educate physicians



# OMC STRUCTURE & AGENCY TRANSITION

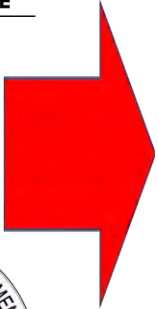
Sec. 301-306

Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan

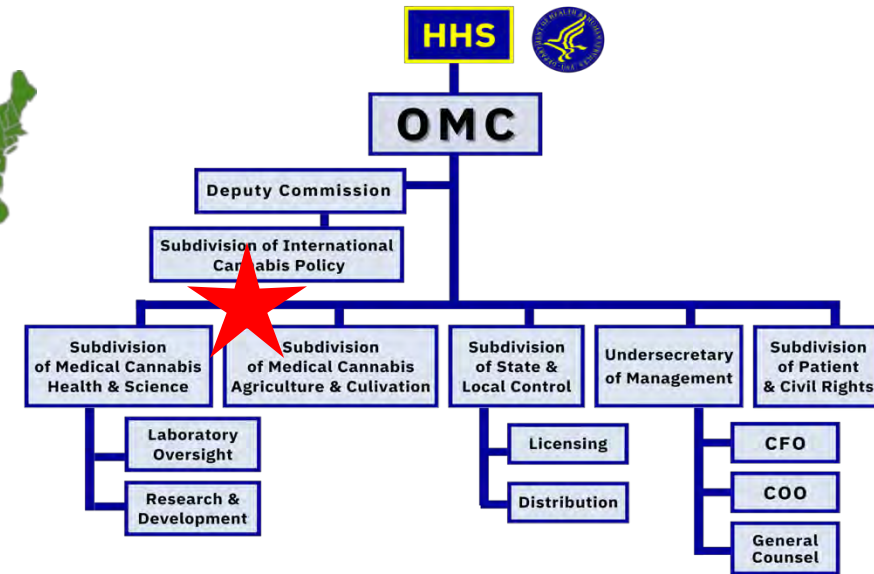
TITLE VII- Implementation

Sec. 305- Cannabis Production; State & Tribal Plans

**NIDA**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
ON DRUG ABUSE



## TITLE III- SUBDIVISION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION & AGRICULTURE



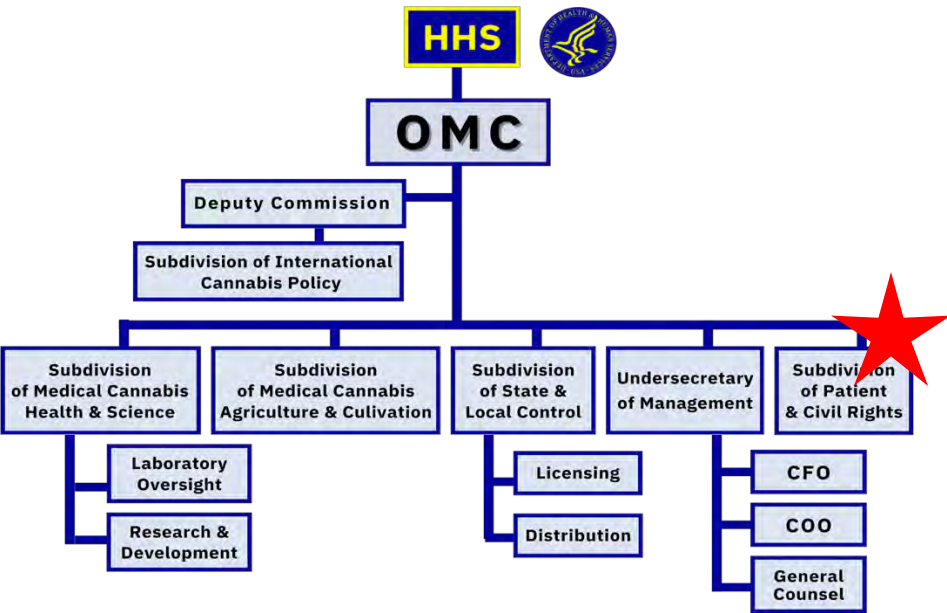
- Work across agencies to create seed registry
- Pesticides guidance for cannabis for human consumption
- Train inspectors
- Create research & marketing orders

# OMC STRUCTURE & AGENCY TRANSITION

Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan

Title VII- Implementation

## SEC. 404- SUBDIVISION OF PATIENT & CIVIL RIGHTS

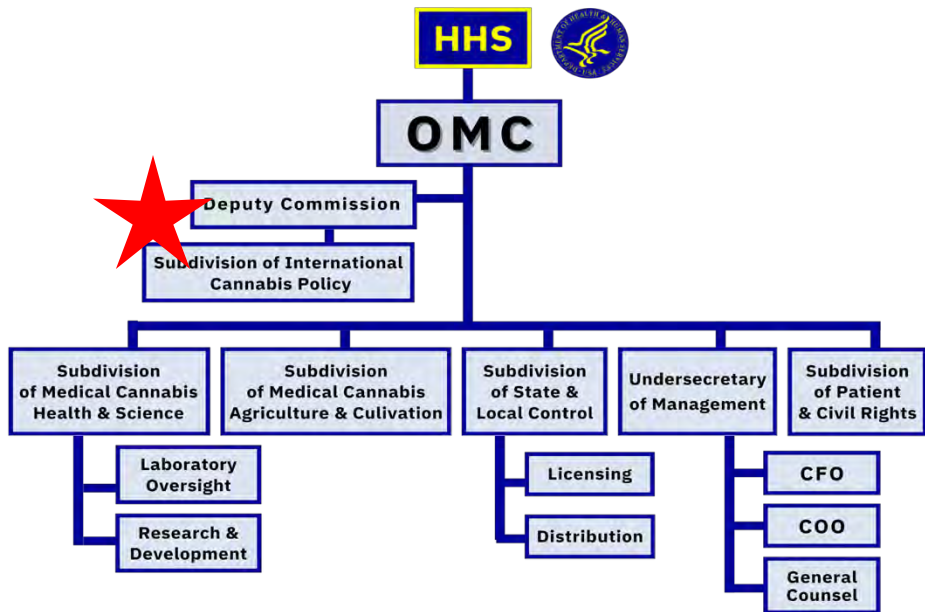
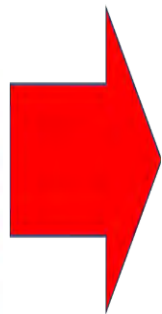


- Review & monitor the implementation to ensure patient rights are protected
- Work across agencies to ensure that patient rights are included in their policies
- Work with CMS to ensure cannabis medications are covered

# SEC. 504-OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY

# OMC STRUCTURE & AGENCY TRANSITION

Sec. 603- Reorganization Plan  
TITLE VII- Implementation  
Sec. 701- (d) Imports, Exports



- OMC designated agency for Cannabis under UN single treaty
- Report to INCB on cannabis
- Establish & oversee cannabis/cannabinoid import/export procedures

# WHY SCHEDULE VI?

Cannabis was placed in Schedule I as a political decision in 1970, not based on scientific evidence. Creating Schedule VI will correct this historical wrong, allowing cannabis to be classified based on its actual medicinal value and safety profile.

Cannabis is a complex botanical medicine with multiple active compounds that interact with the body in unique ways. A new Schedule VI will recognize its distinct nature, allowing for appropriate regulation that doesn't force it into an ill-fitting category designed for synthetic and single-compound drugs.

Creating Schedule VI acknowledges that cannabis is not just another drug—it's a botanical medicine with a unique profile. By placing cannabis in its own category, Schedule VI would allow for regulations tailored to its specific properties and uses.

# WHY SCHEDULE VI?

CANNABIS FEDERAL CLASSIFICATION	SCHEDULE I	SCHEDULE III	DE SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE VI
Recognizes Medical Use of Cannabis		✓		✓
Regulates Cannabinoid & "Hemp Product" Market				✓
Harmonizes State & Federal Medical Cannabis Laws				✓
Removes Criminal Penalties for Cannabis Possession			✓	✓
Removes Criminal Penalties for Cannabis Cultivation & Distribution			✓	✓
Increases & Improves Patient Access				✓
Ensures Employment Protections				✓
Ensures Housing Protections				✓
Ensures Healthcare Rights				✓
Improves Access to Cannabis for Research		✓	✓	✓
Improves Quality of Cannabis Research				✓
Levels the Playing field for Research, Development, & Innovation				✓
Ensures Product Safety Across the Supply Chain				✓
Expands U.S. Definition of Medicine				✓

# THE MEDICAL CANNABIS & CANNABINOID ACT



TRANSITION FROM  
COMPASSIONATE USE TO  
HEALTHCARE INTEGRATION

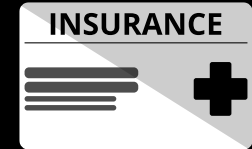
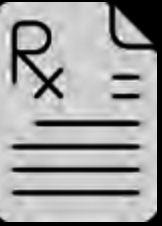
HEALTH CLAIMS  
& DOSAGE

PRODUCT  
PROTOCOLS

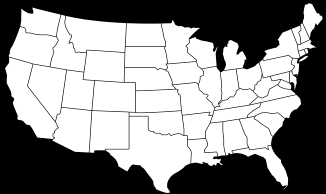
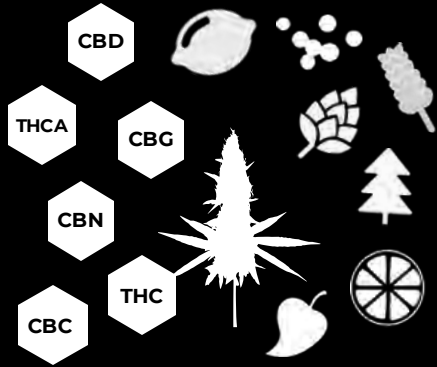


STANDARDIZE  
TERMINOLOGY

RESEARCH  
TOOLS



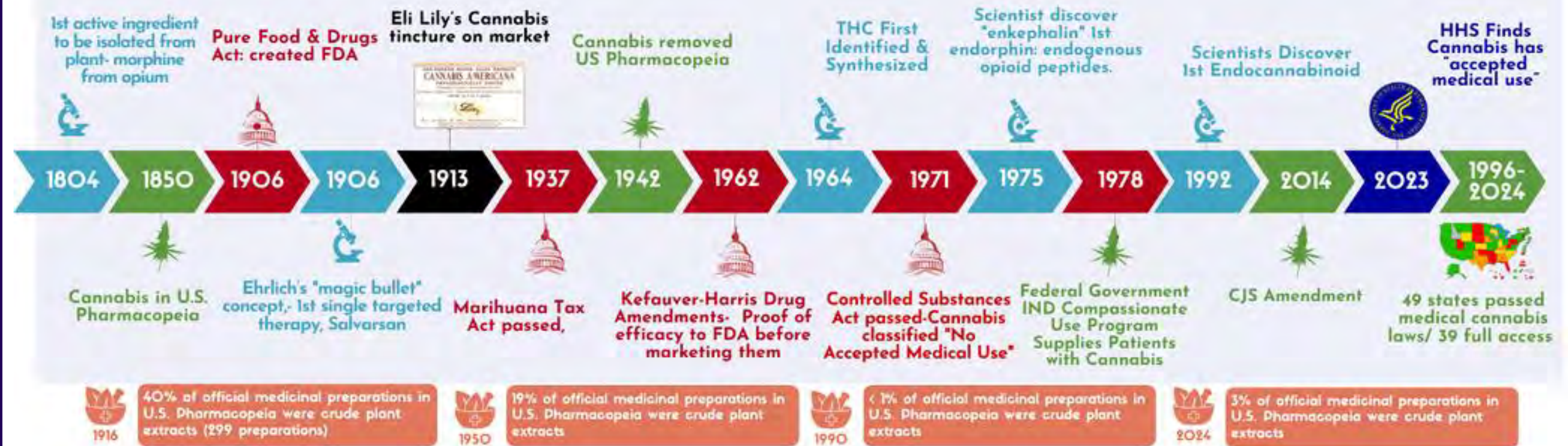
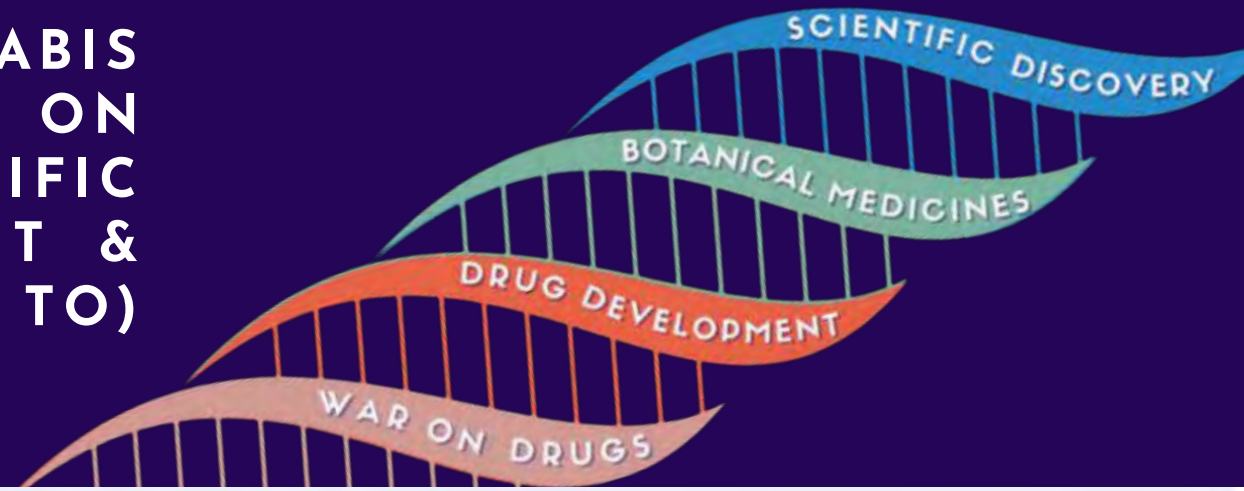
**B**



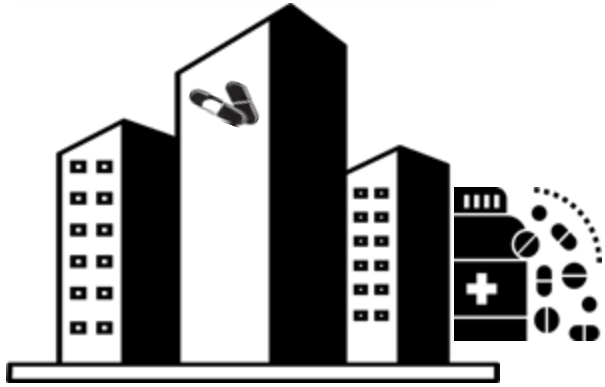
**A**



# THE U.S. HISTORY OF CANNABIS MEDICINES INCLUDES THE WAR ON DRUGS, THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY & DRUG DEVELOPMENT & U.S. MOVE AWAY FROM (& BACK TO) HERBAL MEDICINES.

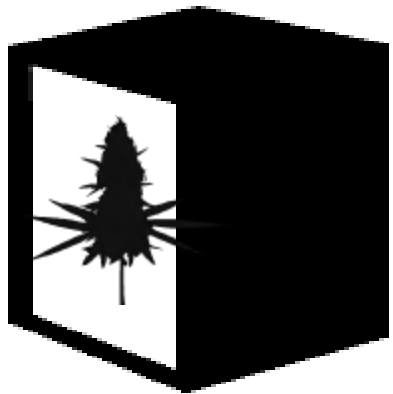


# ONLY FDA APPROVED DRUGS ARE “MEDICINE” IN THE US

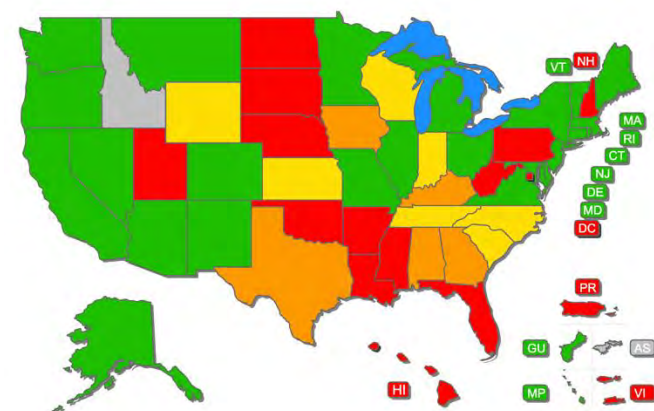
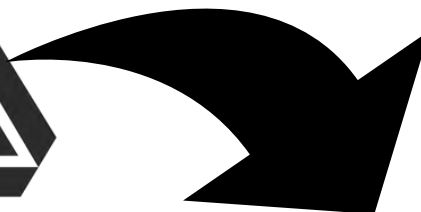


## HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

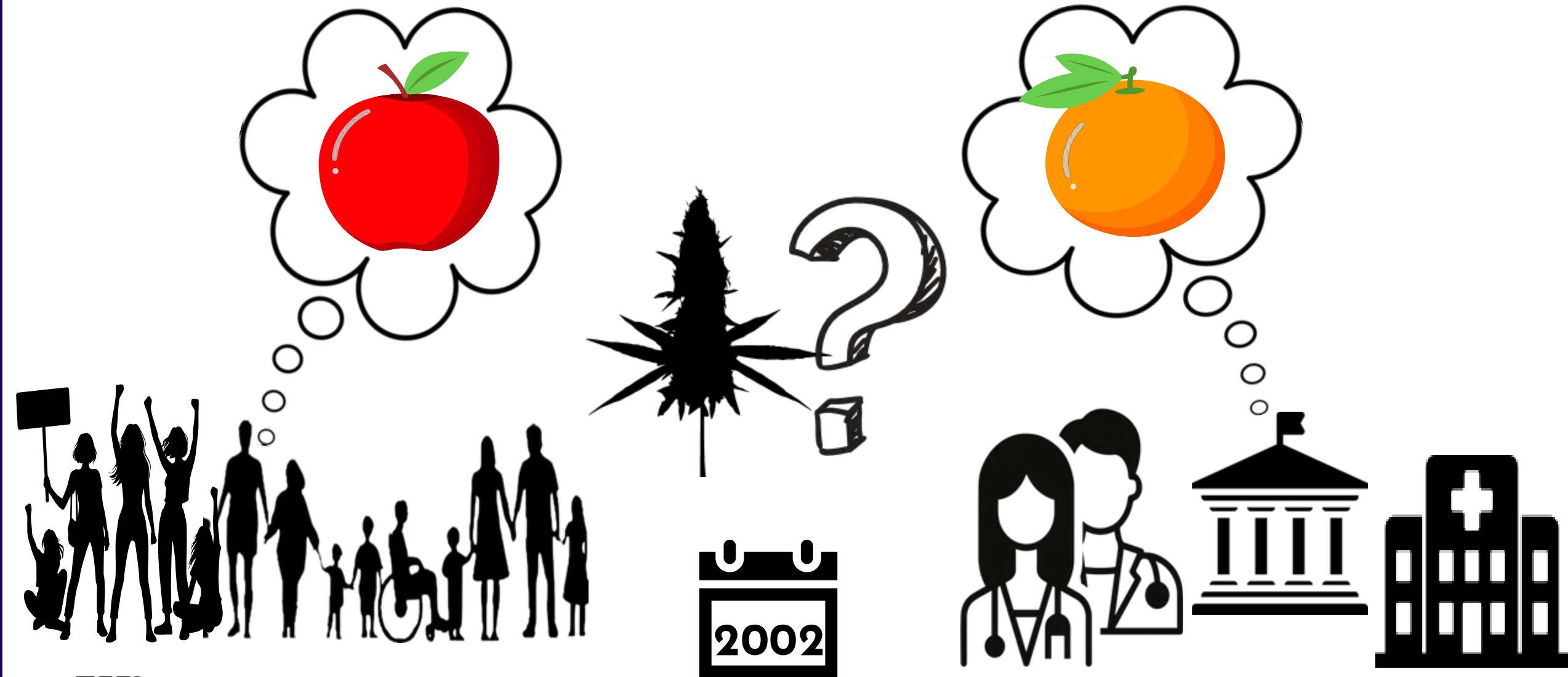




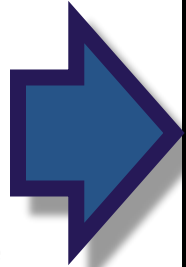
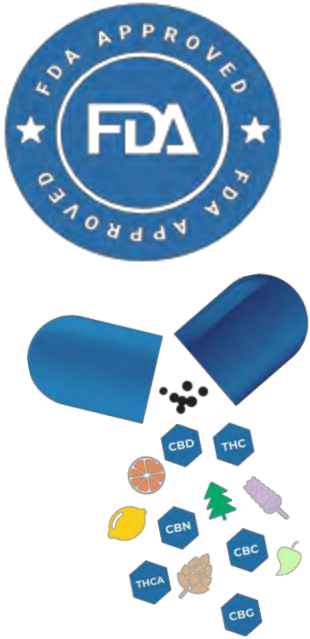
FDA



# A RECENT HISTORY OF CANNABIS THERAPEUTICS



# NO FDA PATHWAY FOR COMPLEX BOTANICAL MEDICINES



## Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Compounds: Quality Considerations for Clinical Research Guidance for Industry

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
January 2023  
Pharmaceutical Quality/Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC)



## Drug Master Files Guidance for Industry

### DRAFT GUIDANCE

This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding this draft document should be submitted within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit electronic comments to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions regarding this draft document, contact (CDER) Rick Enser 240-402-2733, or (CDER) Office of Communication, Outreach and Development, 800-835-4709 or 240-402-3010.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

October 2019  
Pharmaceutical Quality/CMC  
Revision 1



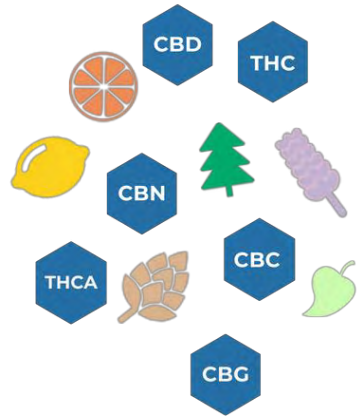
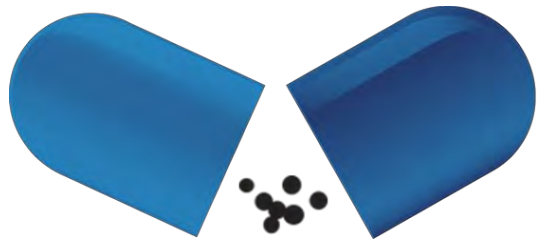
## Botanical Drug Development Guidance for Industry

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)  
Pharmaceutical Quality/CMC

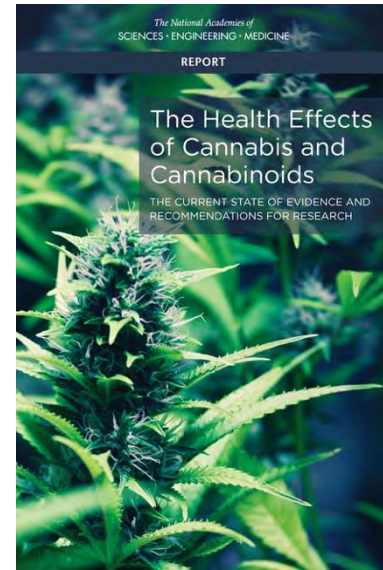
"The Agency recognizes the technical challenges in determining standard pharmacokinetic measurements of systemic exposure because a botanical drug product often consists of more than one chemical constituent and the active constituents may not be identified" page 14.

"The Agency recognizes that demonstrating each botanical raw material's contribution to safety and efficacy in a product with multiple botanical raw materials may not always be feasible" page 22.

# TRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR THERAPEUTIC DISCOVERY



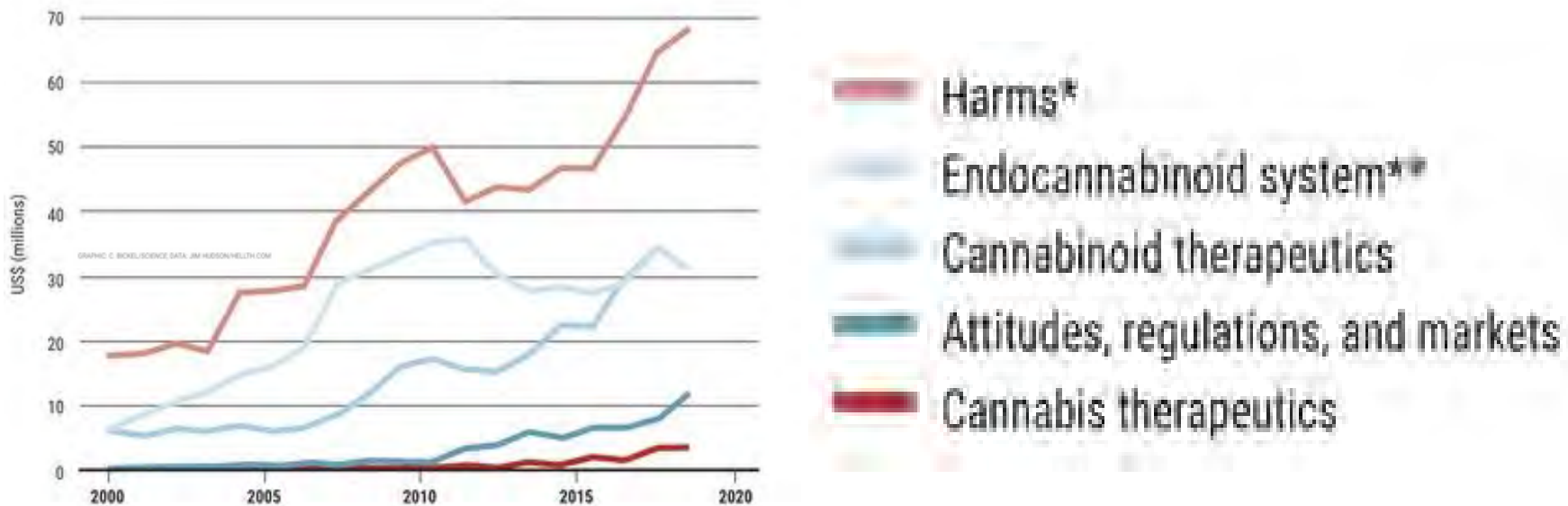
\$?





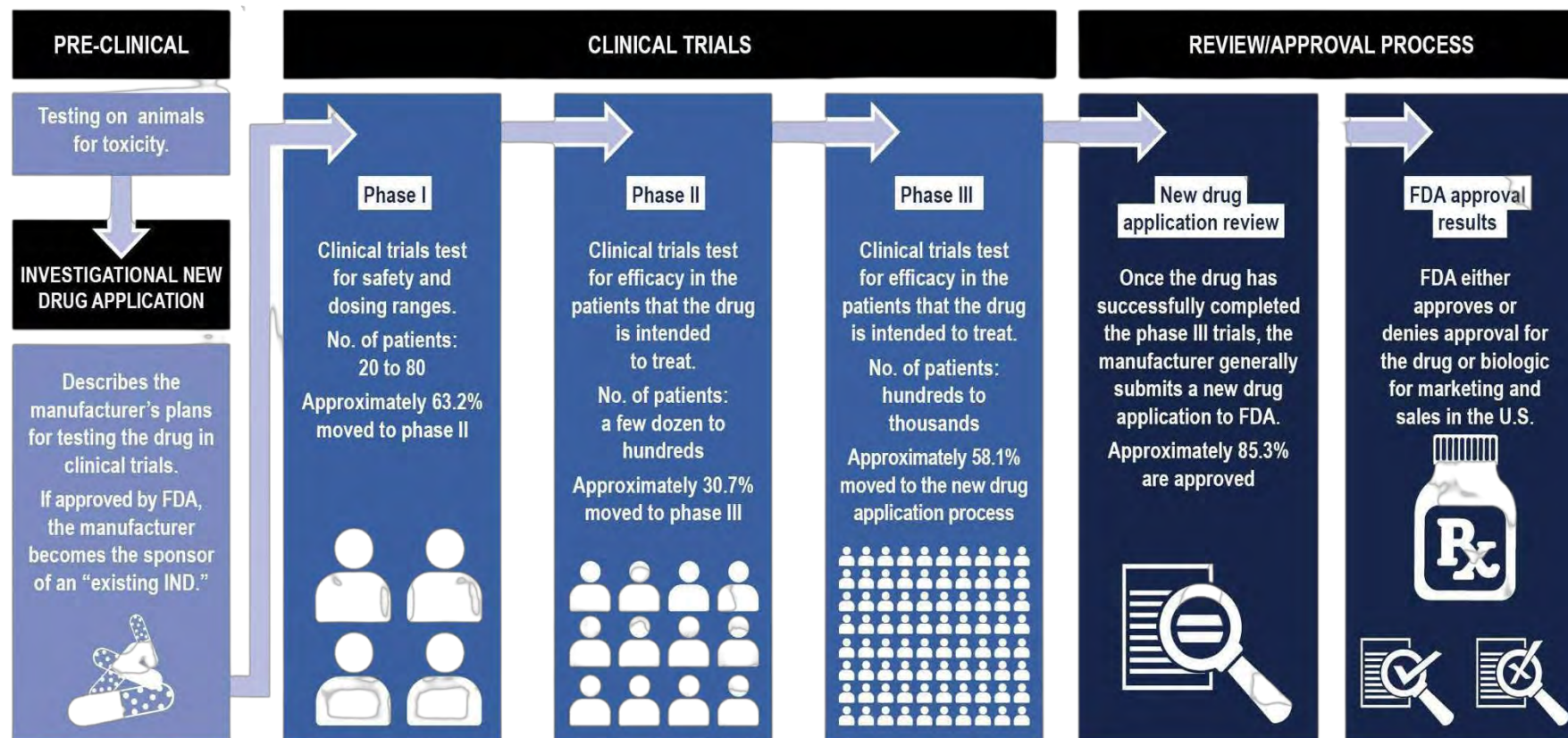
A recent study found that 356 out of 358 drugs approved by the FDA from 2010 to 2019, NIH spent \$1.44 billion per approval on basic or applied research for products with novel targets (spending from the NIH was not less than industry spending).

Between 2000 and 2018, NIH spent a similar amount on cannabis research, \$1.47B, but instead of investing in research to unlock the therapeutic benefits, a majority of \$1.25B were spent on investigating the harms of cannabis consumption.



Source: Cannabis research database shows how U.S. funding focuses on harms of the drug. ScienceInsider Aug 2020

Galkina Cleary E, Jackson MJ, Zhou EW, Ledley FD. Comparison of Research Spending on New Drug Approvals by the National Institutes of Health vs the Pharmaceutical Industry, 2010-2019. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2023;4(4):e230511. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2023.0511



Source: GAO analysis of FDA data and a 2016 collaborative study by Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Biomedtracker, and Amplion.<sup>a</sup> | GAO-17-564

**\$2.6 BILLION**



**8-10 YEARS**

**EPIDIOLEX**-purified form of CBD

**MARINOL & SYNDROS**- dronabinol, synthetic THC

**CESAMET**-nabilone, synthetic structure similar to THC

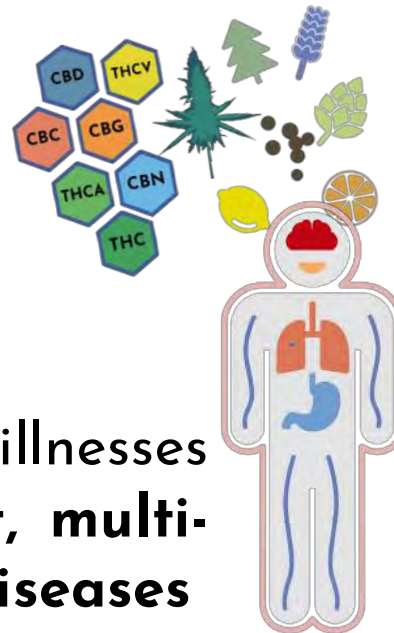
## FDA APPROVED CANNABINOID DRUGS

# WHY CANNABINOID-BASED PHARMACEUTICALS ARE LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHOLE-PLANT MEDICINES

- **Marinol (dronabinol) (1985):** nausea from cancer chemotherapy; anorexia associated with AIDS -Schedule III
- **Cesamet (nabilone) (1985 (2006)):** nausea from cancer chemotherapy -Schedule II
- **Syndros (dronabinol) (2016):** nausea from cancer chemotherapy; anorexia associated with AIDS -Schedule II
- **Epidiolex (CBD) (2018):** for childhood seizures & Tuberous Sclerosis Complex - No longer controlled



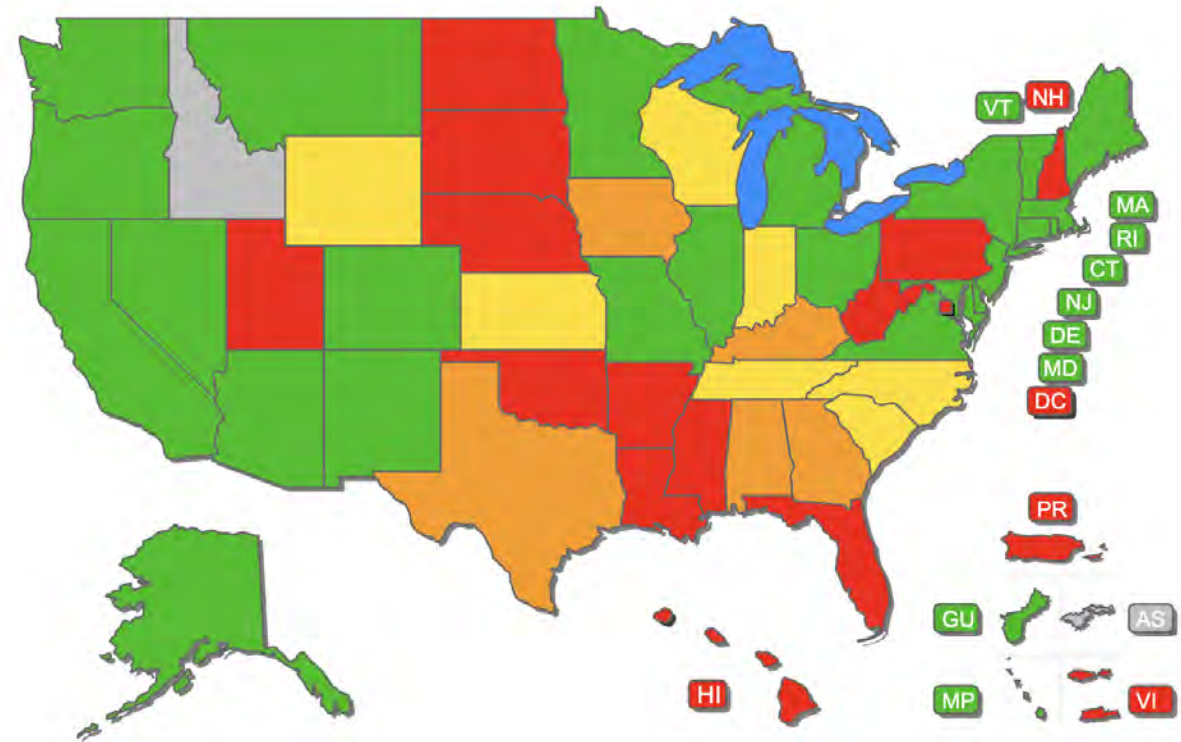
This preference is attributed to the "entourage effect," wherein over 140 phytocannabinoids, terpenes, & flavonoids in cannabis work synergistically to provide comprehensive relief. Full-spectrum cannabis can simultaneously modulate multiple physiological targets and help to provide symptomatic relief to a diverse set of patients.

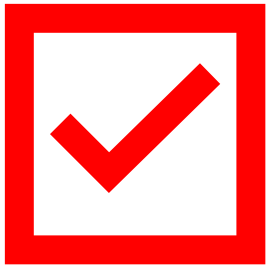


Disorders such as chronic pain, neurodegenerative conditions, and psychiatric illnesses frequently involve multiple overlapping pathways in the body. **Multi-target, multi-component approaches are essential for the treatment of these complex diseases**

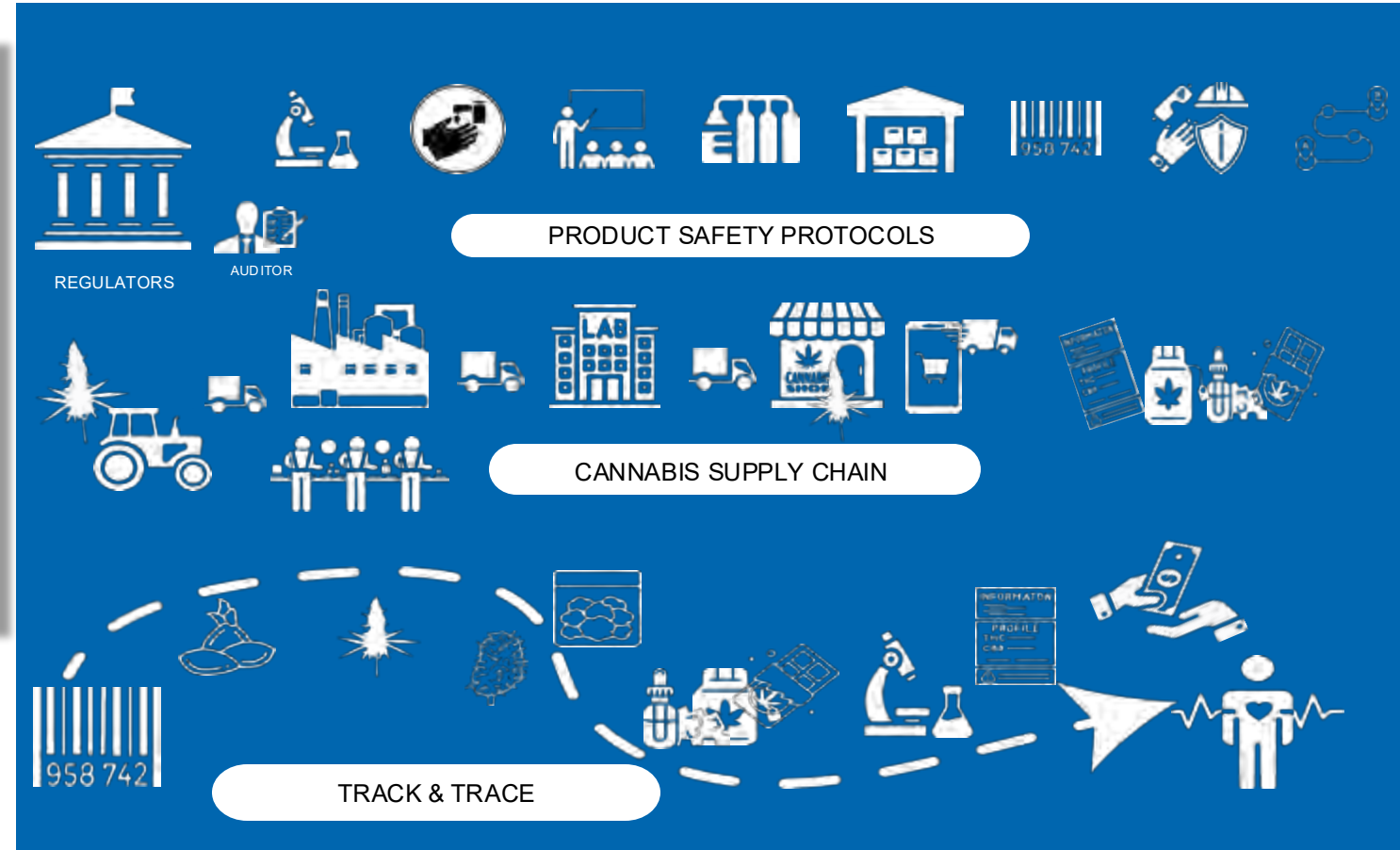


# STATE-BASED COMPASSIONATE USE PROGRAMS ESTABLISH ACCEPTED MEDICAL USE





# PRODUCT SAFETY PROTOCOLS CANNABIS & CANNABIS-DERIVED PRODUCTS





# CANNABIS AS A SOLUTION- OPIOID EPIDEMIC

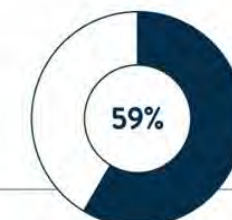
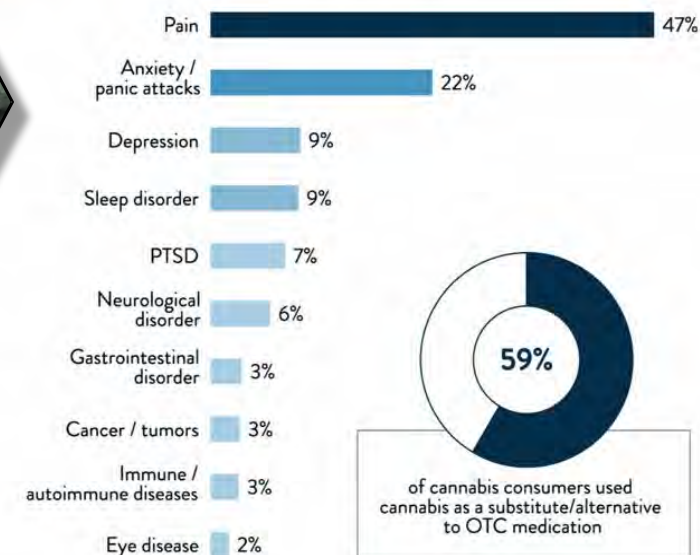


**In 2016, CT, DC, FL, IL, NJ, and NY did NOT include pain as a qualifying condition (23 states total).**

<b>Opioid Response</b> ____/40	
<b>Is cannabis available for treatment?</b> -/15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Does the state allow for chronic pain as a qualifying condition without restriction?</li><li>Does the state allow cannabis to be issued instead of opioid prescriptions?</li><li>Does the state allow for opioid use disorder?</li></ul>	
<b>Doctor education on the interactions between cannabis and opioids</b> -/7	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is doctor education on opioids available through the state department of health or state medical society?</li><li>Is opioid-cannabis education part of the curriculum?</li></ul>	
<b>Can pain patients use cannabis?</b> -/3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Has the state acknowledged the 2016 CDC guidelines on not testing for THC?</li><li>Has the state issued specific guidance about testing for THC and other cannabinoids in pain patients?</li></ul>	
<b>Can pain patients access medical cannabis?</b> -/5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is there same-day access with a doctor's recommendation?</li><li>Can patients use their medical cannabis in home health facilities, hospices, and treatment centers?</li></ul>	
<b>Can the patient afford medical cannabis?</b> -/5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Veteran discount?</li><li>Low income discount?</li><li>Is medicine affordable based on patient feedback?</li></ul>	
<b>Research</b> -/5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Are there sufficient research &amp; development tax breaks for medical cannabis facilities?</li><li>Does the state promote research?</li></ul>	



■ Most Common Conditions Managed



59%  
of cannabis consumers used  
cannabis as a substitute/alternative  
to OTC medication

©2014-2022 New Frontier Data | Source: New Frontier Data

©2014-2022 New Frontier Data | Source: New Frontier Data



**END OF STATE DISCRIMINATION OF CANNABIS & PAIN- Pain qualifying**

**conditions in all States & CDC urged pain clinics to stop drug testing for cannabis**



# **THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S REVIEW OF CANNABIS SCHEDULING**



**INITIATED  
OCTOBER 2022**

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING: SCHEDULES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: RESCHEDULING OF MARIJUANA

May 21, 2024



Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice

PRESS RELEASE

## Justice Department Submits Proposed Regulation to Reschedule Marijuana

Proposed Rule Seeks to Move Marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III, Emphasizing its Currently Accepted Medical Use in Treatment in the United States

"The Department of Justice ("DOJ") proposes to transfer marijuana from schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act ("CSA") to schedule III of the CSA, consistent with the view of the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") that marijuana has a currently accepted medical use"

**“CURRENTLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL USE  
FOR TREATMENT IN THE UNITED STATES”  
OF CANNABIS IS NOT POLITICAL**



Americans for  
Safe Access

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Michael G. Eichenlaub  
Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
250 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Comments on Proposed Rule: Submission of Unpublished Submissions: Rescheduling of  
Marijuana, 21 CFR 1306.99 (R 4459)

Attorney General's Office

"We intend to propose new rules consistent with the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Proposed  
Rule: 'Submission of Unpublished Submissions: Rescheduling of Marijuana.'"

The Proposed Rule would establish marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act  
(CSA) to Schedule II of the CSA. The rule fails to provide adequate notice and does not support  
moving marijuana to schedule II and should not have been signed or published.

The background section of the Proposed Rule begins by noting that 24 states and the District of  
Columbia have legalized the use of medical marijuana. This should be irrelevant to the analysis  
conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of  
Justice (DOJ). Nothing in the CSA suggests or requires that HHS should consider a drug's  
popularity or legal status in the state level when determining a drug's schedule. It is clear that  
HHS and DOJ have the correct conclusion that the rule does not provide sufficient notice to move marijuana to schedule II.

It is clear that the DEA was not properly consulted in the drafting of the Proposed Rule. DEA  
Administrator Wilson did not sign the rule and it was never sent to DEA before  
additional information is needed regarding the appropriate schedule for marijuana. The Proposed  
Rule references DEA's findings from 2016, which it repeated two problems to identify marijuana  
from schedule I. It states that DEA is relying on findings from 2016, all the more reason why  
this rule should not have been published without sign-off from the DEA Administrator.

The CSA lists the categories of controlled substances that correspond with the categories level  
placed on (illegal) drugs. Schedule I drugs have a high potential for abuse, are currently accepted  
medical use, and a lack of accepted safety under medical supervision. Schedule II drugs have a  
potential for abuse that is less than schedule I and II, a currently accepted medical use, and a

DEA-123456789

# ON JULY 10, 2024, 25 GOP SENATORS & MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WROTE A SCATHING LETTER TO AG GARLAND IN PROTEST OF SCHEDULE III PROPOSED RULE FOR CANNABIS.

It is clear that this Proposed Rule was not properly researched, circumvented DEA, and is merely responding to the popularity of marijuana and not the actual science.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Drug Enforcement Administration**

**21 CFR Part 1301**

[Docket No. DEA-1362]

RIN 1117-AB77

**Schedules of Controlled Substances:  
Rescheduling of Marijuana**

**AGENCY:** Drug Enforcement  
Administration, Department of Justice.

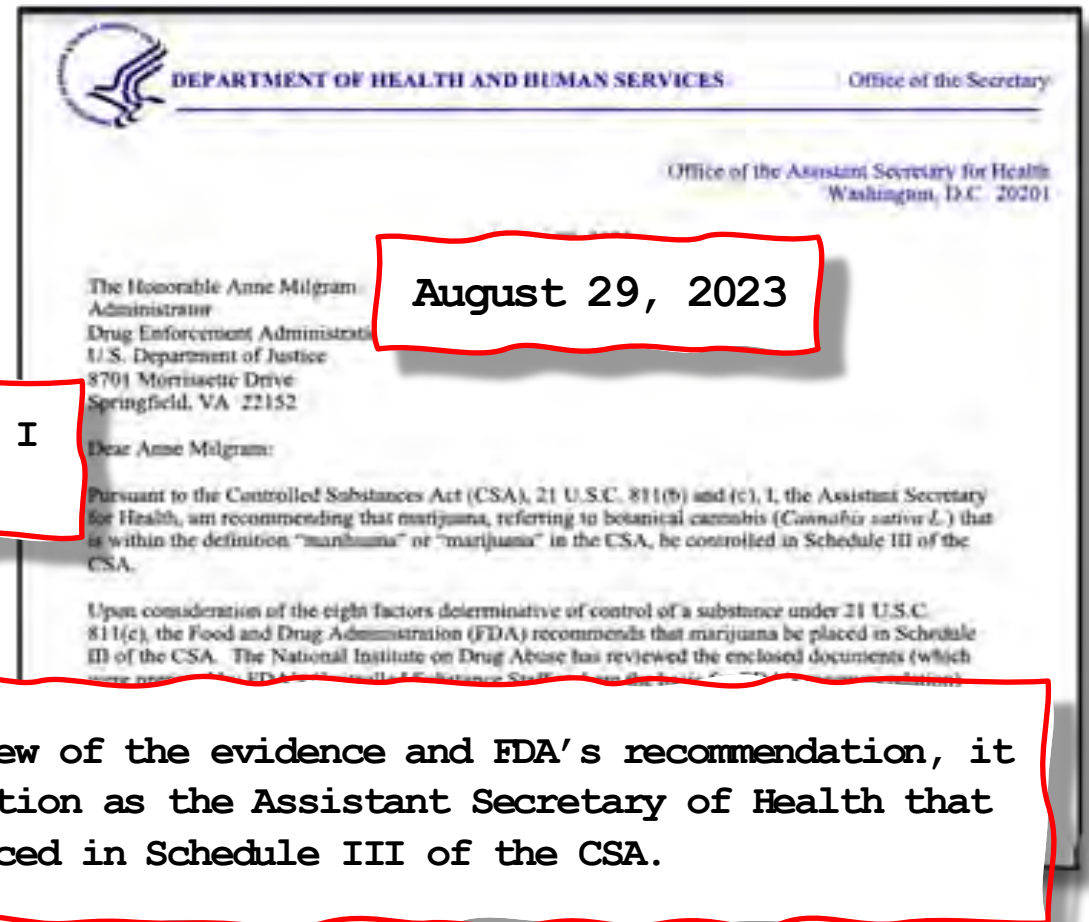
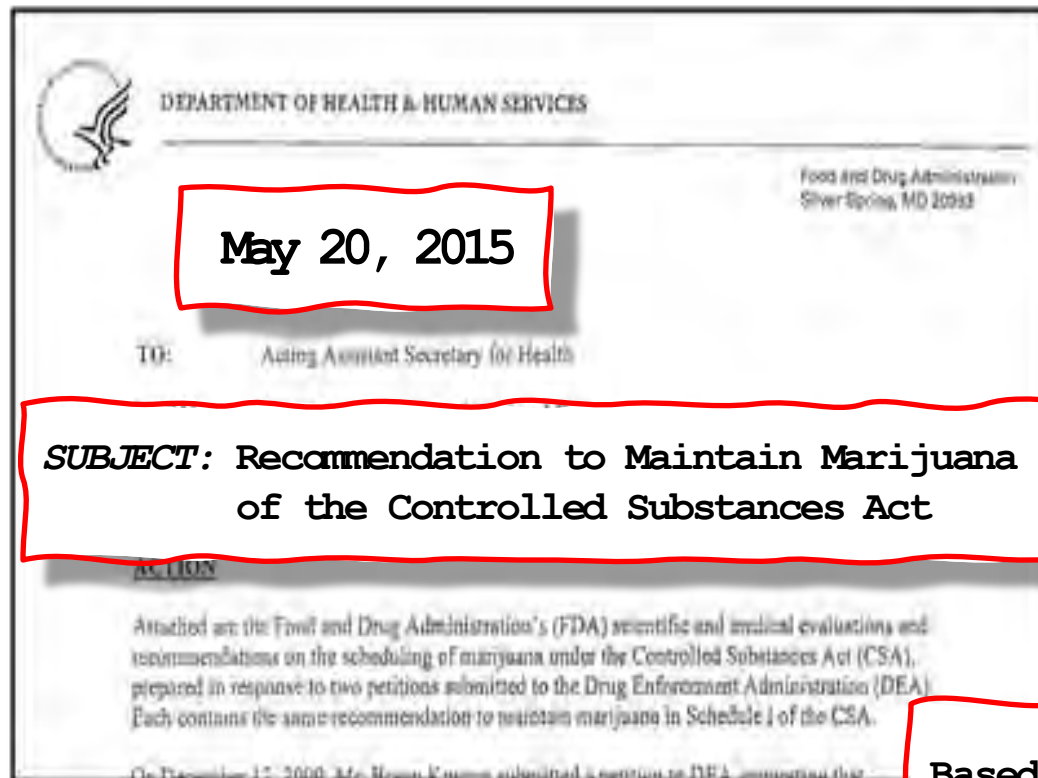
**ACTION:** Notice of hearing on proposed  
rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This is notice that the Drug  
Enforcement Administration will hold a  
hearing with respect to the proposed  
rescheduling of marijuana into schedule  
III of the Controlled Substances Act. The  
proposed rescheduling of marijuana was  
initially proposed in a Notice of  
Proposed Rulemaking published in the  
**Federal Register** on May 21, 2024.

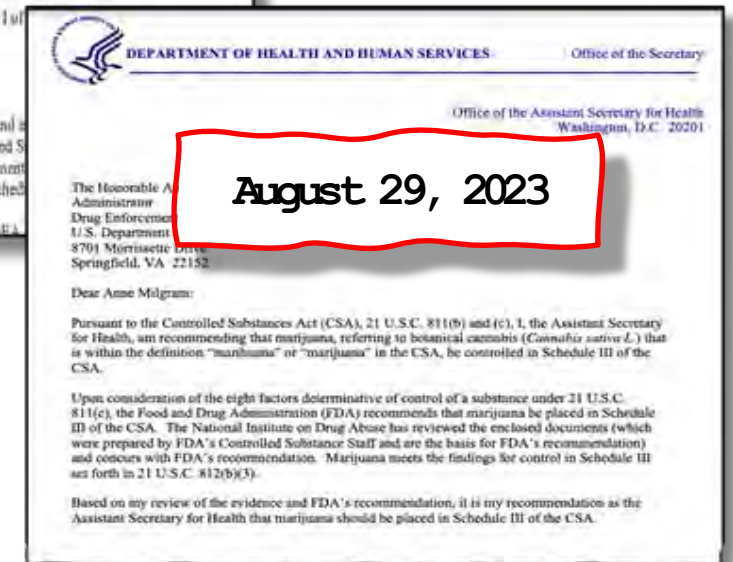
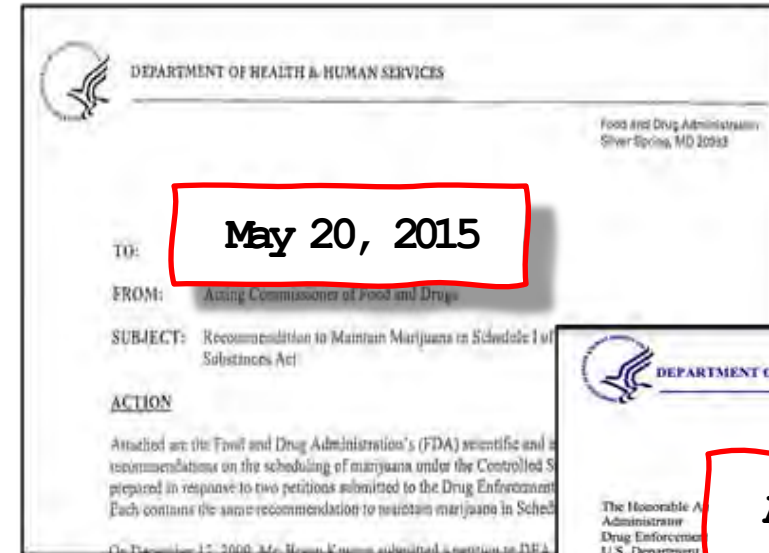
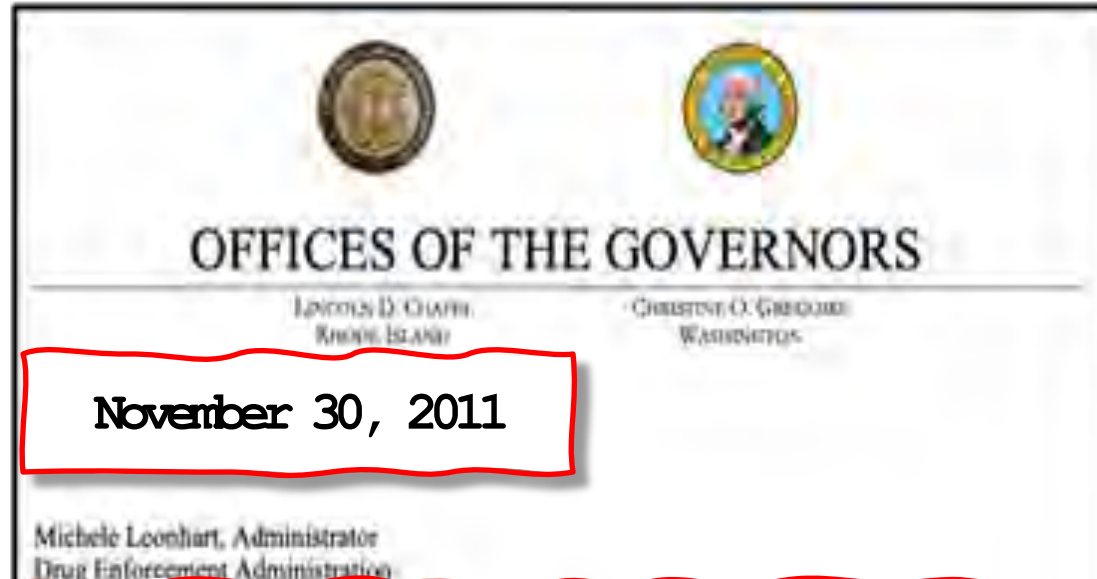
“In addition to the data provided in the HHS Basis for Recommendation and the data considered by HHS and DEA in their 2015 eight-factor analyses, DEA anticipates that additional information arising from this rulemaking will further inform the findings that must be made to reschedule marijuana.”



# WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN 2015 & 2023?



# HHS 2015 FINDINGS BASED ON DATA PRESENTED IN A 2011 PETITION



*Subject: Rulemaking petition to reclassify cannabis for medical use from Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule II*

# **12 YEARS OF KEY SCIENTIFIC & MEDICAL DISCOVERIES IMPACT RESCHEDULING FINDINGS**

“ In 2015, HHS recommended a finding that marijuana had no CAMU due in part to a lack of adequate safety studies or evidence that qualified experts accepted marijuana for use in treating a specific, recognized disorder. 81 FR 53688 at 53707. As a result of its most recent evaluation, which incorporates post-2016 data into its analysis, HHS recommends a finding that marijuana has a Currently Accepted Medical Use CAMU in Treatment in the United States.”



**DEA, DOJ: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Schedules of Controlled Substances: Rescheduling of Marijuana May 21, 2024**

# 2011 MEDICAL CANNABIS ACCESS

16 states with medical cannabis laws  
13 programs operating  
5 operating distribution programs



286,243 registered medical cannabis patients (excluding WA, CA, HI, no data available, DC, DE, NJ, not online yet) and an estimated 600,000 non-registered patients.

“ [T]he Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health found that more than 30,000 HCPs [Healthcare Providers] are authorized to recommend the use of marijuana for more than six million registered patients, constituting widespread clinical experience associated with various medical conditions recognized by a substantial number of jurisdictions across the United States. For several jurisdictions, these programs have been in place for several years, and include features that actively monitor medical use and product quality characteristics of marijuana dispensed. HHS Basis for Rec. at 24. ”



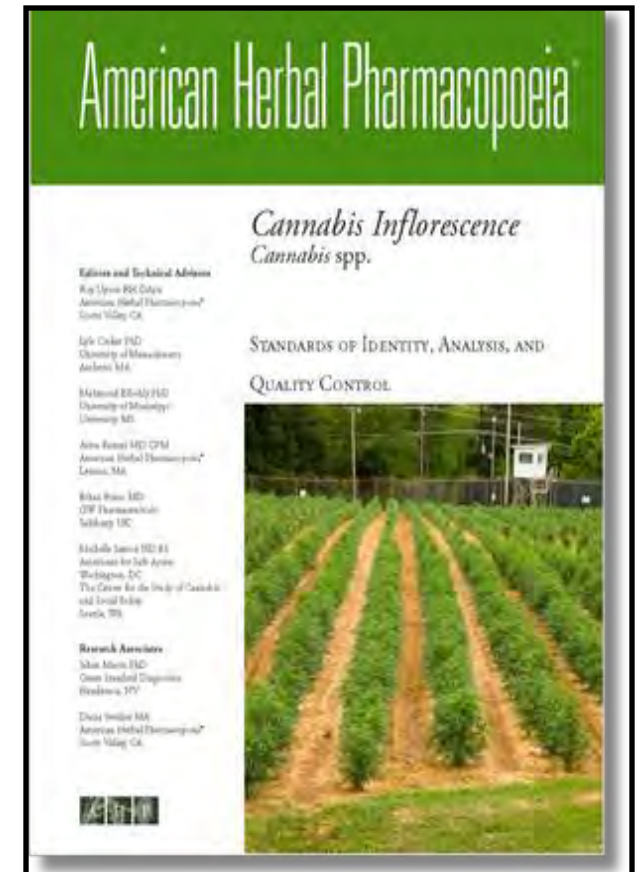
**DEA, DOJ: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Schedules of Controlled Substances: Rescheduling of Marijuana May 21, 2024**

# FIRST PRODUCT SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR CANNABIS SUPPLY CHAIN

**2012** the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), the principal U.S. trade association and voice of the herbal products industry, created supply-chain-wide product safety protocols for commercial cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and laboratory testing of medical cannabis products for human consumption.



**2013** the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP) issued the Cannabis Inflorescence Monograph, a comprehensive description of the plant's botany, constituent components, analysis, and quality control. This monograph, authored by the world's leading experts on the plant, provides scientifically valid methods of testing the identity, purity, potency, and quality of cannabis products.



# 2015- STATES ADD QUALIFYING CONDITIONS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAMS THROUGH FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS

Twenty-one state medical cannabis programs included a process to add qualifying medical conditions through a designated expert committee appointed by the State’s Department of Health. The first state to add a qualifying condition through this process happened in 2015, after completing the HHS review of the petition.

65 QUALIFYING CONDITIONS ADDED TO MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAMS THROUGH EXPERT REVIEWS		
ADHD	Fibromyalgia	Pancreatitis: Acute & Chronic
Age-Related Macular Degeneration	Huntington Disease	Parkinson's
ALS	Hydrocephalus	Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)
Alzheimer’s Disease	Interstitial Cystitis	Post Laminectomy Syndrome with Chronic
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Intractable Headache Syndrome	Radiculopathy
Anorexia Nervosa	Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)	Post-Herpetic Neuralgia, Peripheral Neuropathy &
Anxiety Disorder	Mal Syndrome	Allodynia from Shingles
Arthritis	Migraines	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Autism	Muscular Dystrophy	Progressive Degenerative Disc Disease of The Spine
Cachexia Or Wasting Syndrome	Neuro-Bechet’s Autoimmune Disease	Sickle Cell
Cancer, Including Remission Therapy	Neurodegenerative Diseases	Spastic Movement Disorders
Cerebral Palsy	Nystagmus	Spasticity
Chronic Hepatitis C	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	Spinal Cord Injury
Chronic Vocal	Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Substance Use Disorder
Motor Tic Disorder Colitis	Opioid Use Disorder	Superior Canal Dehiscence Syndrome
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome	Osteoarthritis	Terminal Illness
Degenerative Neurological Disorder	Pain; Chronic, Of Visceral Origin	Tourette Syndrome
Depression	Pain: Any Condition Opioids Prescribed	Trigeminal Neuralgia
Dyskinetic	Pain: Chronic. Chronic Related to	Ulcerative Colitis
Dystonia	Musculoskeletal Disorder. Neuropathic, &	Vulvar Lichen Sclerosis
Ehler’s Danlos Syndrome	Severe Debilitating & Intractable	Vulvodynia & Vulvar Burning



**In 2015, HHS indicated that “medical practitioners who are not experts in evaluating drugs cannot be considered qualified experts.”**

**(HHS, 2015; 57 FR 10499,10505).**

**HHS also highlighted that state-level “medical marijuana laws do not provide evidence of such a consensus among qualified experts.”**

**HHS’s 2015 “Basis for the Recommendation for Maintaining Marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act”**

**DEA’S 2016 “DENIAL OF PETITION TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS TO RESCHEDULE MARIJUANA” FACTSHEET**

**BACKGROUND**

The last scheduling petition was filed by Governors Lincoln D. Chafee (RI) and Christine O. Gregoire (WA) in November 2011. It took the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) five years to respond. Their response was a document titled “Denial of Petition to Initiate Proceedings to Reschedule Marijuana”.

In this report, DEA chief Chuck Rosenberg stated that this decision was based heavily on the FDA’s determination that marijuana is not “a safe & effective medicine” and concluded that “marijuana” (cannabis) should not be removed from the Schedule I status due to 3 issues:

1. Marijuana has a high potential for abuse;
2. Marijuana has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; &
3. Marijuana lacks accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

This conclusion was based on 21 U.S.C. 811(b) of the CSA, the medical and scientific analysis considers the following eight factors determinative of control of the drug under the CSA (21 U.S.C. 811(c)) & the “five-element test” for determining whether the drug has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States in the absence of a New Drug Application (NDA) or Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) approval.

Full report available at [safeaccessnow.org/dea\\_denial](https://safeaccessnow.org/dea_denial)

Americans for Safe Access



SafeAccessNow.org 1

# AGENCIES THAT LED PROCESS FOR EXPERT REVIEWS OF ADDING QUALIFY CONDITIONS :



Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection/Board of Physicians  
Delaware Department of Health & Social Services  
Hawaii Department of Health  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
State of Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs  
Minnesota Department of Health  
New Jersey Department of Health  
New Mexico Department of Health/Medical Advisory Board  
New York Commissioner of Health  
State Medical Board of Ohio  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Rhode Island Department of Health



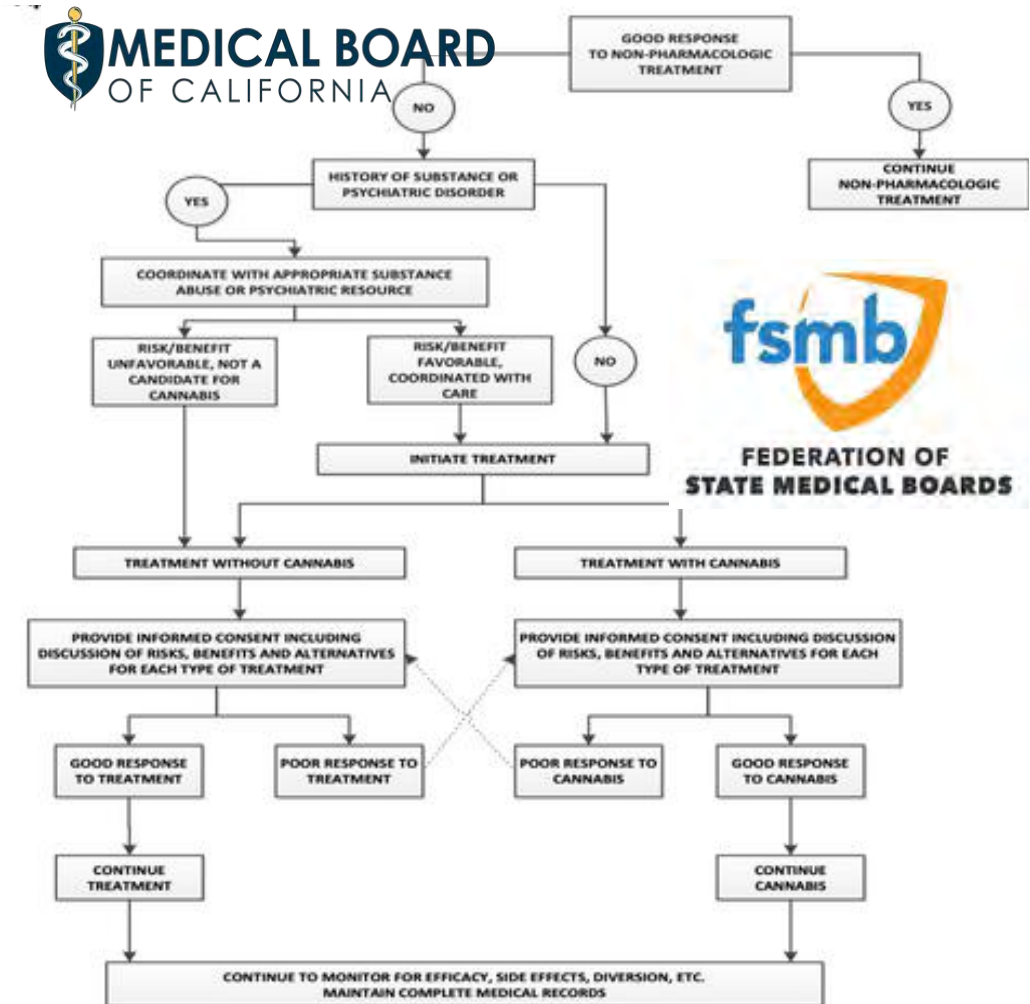
**The DOJ Office of Legal Counsel highlighted these programs in support of HHS's finding of "Currently Accepted Medical Use":**

“Several states have also established processes through which experts can recommend additions to, or removals from, the list of conditions that marijuana may be used to treat—indeed, HHS has informed us that 17 jurisdictions have added conditions that may be treated with marijuana using such processes; see HHS Part 1 Analysis Memo at 4. **In short, it is simply not the case that state practice concerning medical marijuana is completely divorced from scientific and medical assessment.**”

**- DOJ Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)**

# 2016- MEDICAL BOARDS PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ON WHEN TO RECOMMEND CANNABIS

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) adopted “Model Guidelines for the Recommendation of Marijuana in Patient Care” and several state medical boards issued guidelines for physicians to incorporate cannabis into their patients’ treatment regime, for example: “Medical Board of California’s Guidelines for the Recommendation of Cannabis for Medical Purposes”



# 2016- CDC RECOGNIZES CANNABIS' ROLE IN TREATING PAIN & MITIGATING OPIOID DEATHS

The CDC published guidelines for opioid prescribers to stop testing for Cannabis.



“Clinicians should not test for substances for which results would not affect patient management or for which implications for patient management are unclear. For example, experts noted that there might be uncertainty about the clinical implications of a positive urine drug test for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).”



# 2017 DEA REMOVES “GATEWAY THEORY” REFERENCES FROM WEBSITE/PUBLICATION AFTER DATA QUALITY ACT (DQA) CHALLENGE



DEA's 2016 "Denial of Petition to Initiate Proceedings to Reschedule Marijuana" contradicts "The Dangers & Consequences of Marijuana Abuse" & "Drugs of Abuse"



No scientific basis for (1) the gateway drug hypothesis (2) irreversible cognitive decline in adults; and cannabis causing (3) psychosis or (4) lung cancer




## END OF GATEWAY THEORY



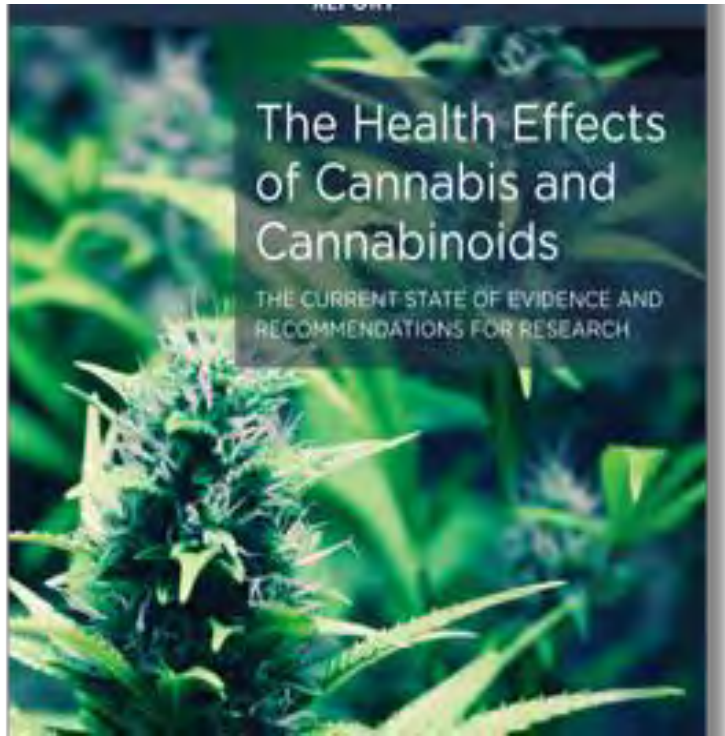
# National Institute on Drug Abuse

## Is cannabis a "gateway" drug?

Cannabis products are among the first substances along with alcohol and tobacco that a person will likely encounter in their life ([MTE, 2023](#) ) , and people who use substances commonly use these before trying others. Still, most people who use or have used cannabis do not go on to use other substances later in life.<sup>71</sup>

**NIDA WEBSITE 2025**

# **2017** The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids that found:

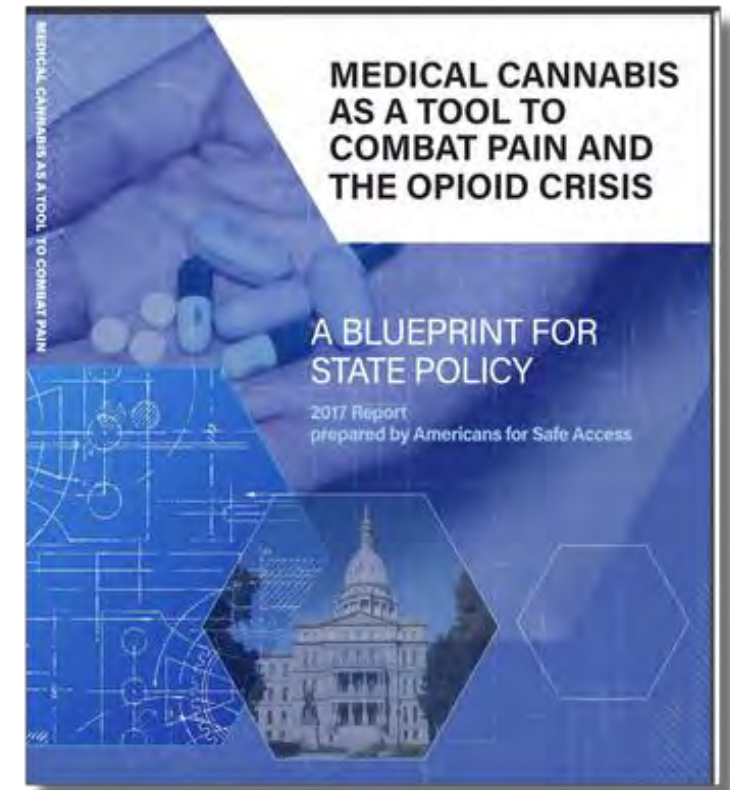


"There is conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for the treatment of chronic pain in adults, as anti-emetics in the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and for improving patient-reported multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms."

**National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and  
Medicine: The Health Effects of Cannabis &  
Cannabinoids, January 2017**

# **2017- OPIOID EPIDEMIC DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, 2018 STATES IMPROVE MEDICAL CANNABIS LAWS TO COMBAT IMPACT**

The United States declares the opioid crisis a “public health emergency” after reaching an average of “**91 deaths a day.**” *Connecticut, Washington DC, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York* add pain as a qualifying condition to their medical cannabis program following the ASA report “Medical Cannabis as a Tool to Combat Pain and Opioid Crisis: A Blueprint for State Policy.”



# 2019 UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES CANNABIS SPECIALTY DEGREES

Thousands of Americans have associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in cannabis studies, including Cannabis Biology and Chemistry, Cannabis Studies, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Agriculture and Horticulture, Cultivation, Policy, Medical Plant Sciences, Business, Commerce and Administration from over 40 Universities and colleges



# INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AGENCY RECOGNIZES MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS

**2019** The World Health Organization recommends that the United Nations Committee on Narcotic Drugs reschedule cannabis based on “a multi-year review process conducted by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), an independent scientific advisory body to the WHO. Based on scientific assessment, potential health risk and therapeutic benefit”



## DRUG TREATIES MODIFIED TO RECOGNIZE CANNABIS THERAPEUTICS

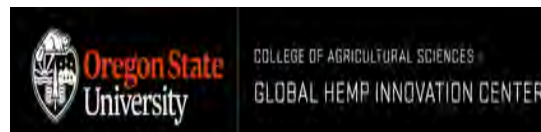


**2020-** The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the drug policy-making body of the UN reclassified cannabis and cannabis resin under an international drug treaties.

**2019** States began contributing to research, creating the first significant source of funding for research outside NIDA.



**In 2011, CMCR at UC San Diego was one of the only cannabis research centers in the U.S.**



# THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA & CANNABIDIOL RESEARCH ACT BECOMES LAW

## 2022 *-BI-PARTISAN EFFORT LEAD BY TRADITIONAL PRO-PROHIBITION MEMBERS*



"We know that cannabidiol-derived medications can be effective for conditions like epilepsy. This bill will help refine current medical CBD practices and develop important new applications. After years of negotiation, I'm delighted that we're finally enacting this bill that will result in critical research that could help millions." **-Senator Feinstein**



"Since 2015, I've pushed to expand medical research into marijuana derivatives such as cannabidiol to better understand their benefits and potential harms." **-Senator Grassley**

"Congress passed this legislation with robust bipartisan, bicameral support because increasing research into the impacts of cannabis requires timely action" **-Andy Harris (R)**



# 2022- DOSING GUIDELINES FOR CANNABIS & CANNABINOID MEDICINES



2022: Minnesota Department of Health issues “Dosing and Chemical Composition Report: A Review of Medical Cannabis Studies Relating to Chemical Compositions and Dosages for Qualifying Medical Conditions.”

[mn.gov/ocm/dmc/health-care-practitioners/guidance-materials/medical-cannabis-studies.jsp](https://mn.gov/ocm/dmc/health-care-practitioners/guidance-materials/medical-cannabis-studies.jsp)

# 2023 OVER 60 COUNTRIES HAVE FEDERAL MEDICAL CANNABIS ACCESS PROGRAMS

In 2011, only two countries had laws allowing for medical use of cannabis, Canada and the Netherlands. In 2023, that number rose to over 60 countries with explicit laws and dozens more debating legislation. Patients in the European Union (EU), can petition their government to receive medical cannabis from EU countries that have medical cannabis programs.



## Countries with Medical Cannabis Access:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Canada, Channel Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Isle of Man, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

# 2023

## FEDERAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAMS OK UNDER DRUG TREATIES: INCB ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR COMPLIANCE

### Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for 2022:

“Following the recommendation of WHO, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided in December 2020 to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention...As far as the specific control measures for cannabis are observed, these medical cannabis programmes are in compliance with the conventions.”



#### 21 USC 811



(d)INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, CONVENTIONS, AND PROTOCOLS REQUIRING CONTROL; PROCEDURES RESPECTING CHANGES IN DRUG SCHEDULES OF CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES(1)If [control](#) is required by [United States](#) obligations under international treaties, conventions, or protocols in effect on October 27, 1970, the Attorney General shall issue an order controlling such [drug](#) under the schedule he deems most appropriate to carry out such obligations, without regard to the findings required by subsection (a) of this section or [section 812\(b\) of this title](#) and without regard to the procedures prescribed by subsections (a) and (b) of this section.



**2023**

**American Nurses Association (ANA)  
Officially Recognizes Cannabis Nursing  
as a Specialty Nursing Practice**



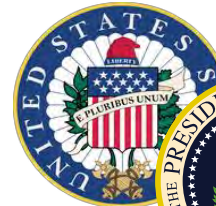
**2023 HHS FINDS CANNABIS HAS  
"CURRENTLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL USE"**

# CRACKS IN U.S. 50 YEAR PROHIBITION OF CANNABIS



National Institutes  
of Health

**NIDA**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
ON DRUG ABUSE



“

**CANNABIS HAS  
CURRENTLY ACCEPTED  
MEDICAL USE IN THE U.S.**

”

DEA, DOJ: Notice of proposed rulemaking: Schedules of Controlled  
Substances: Rescheduling of Marijuana May 21, 2024



# ***RESCHEDULING OF CANNABIS***

**SCHEDULE II or III will have little to no impact on the current US cannabis market...**

but is a **game changer** for patients & advocates working to close the gap between **politics & medicine**; allowing the federal policy focus to evolve from proving “if cannabis has medical value” to “how can patients access cannabis.”

**CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ACT FOR  
PATIENTS TO BENEFIT FROM THE  
CHANGE IN CANNABIS CLASSIFICATION.**





**CHRONIC & MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 90% OF THE \$4.1 TRILLION SPENT ANNUALLY ON U.S. HEALTHCARE**

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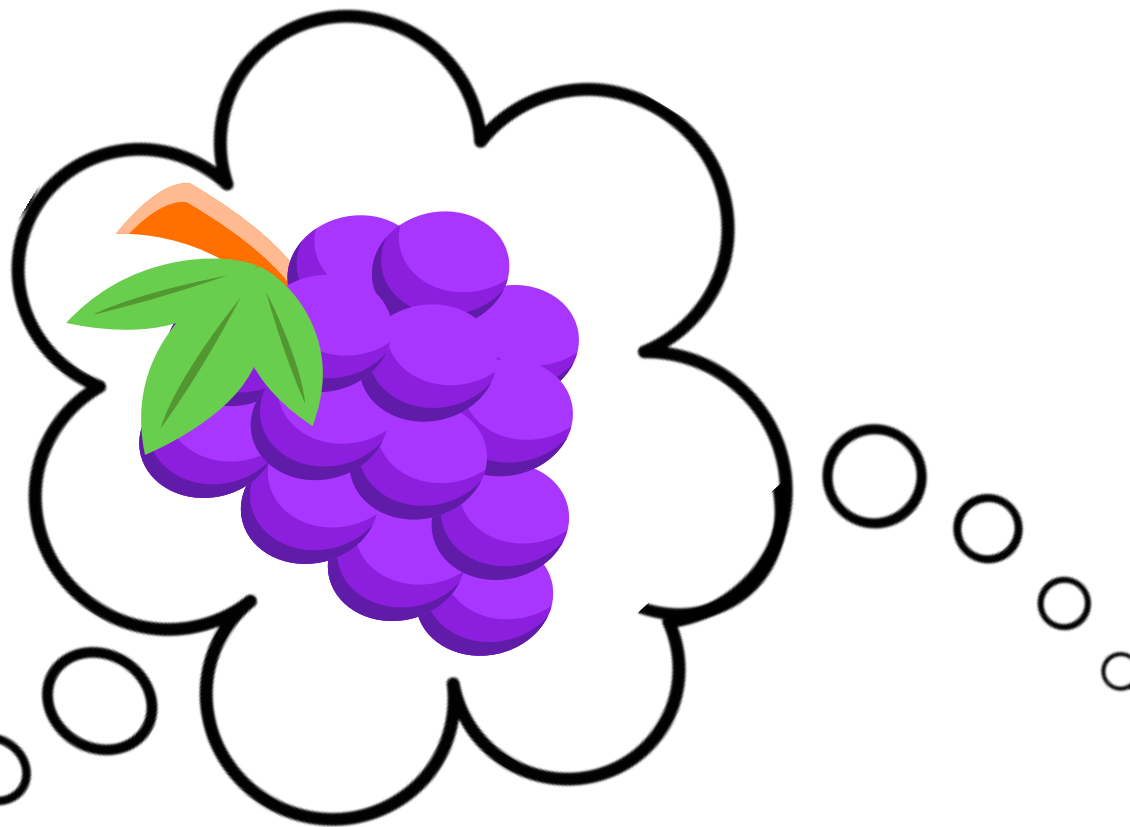


**\$35 BILLION ANNUALLY ON OPIOID MISUSE & RELATED HEALTHCARE COSTS**

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**30 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE A RARE DISEASE. 95% OF THE 7,000 KNOWN RARE DISEASES HAVE NO FDA-APPROVED TREATMENT.**





**THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS IS UP TO CONGRESS**



# Endorse MCCA & Safe Access 4 All

Please select an option below.

× Clear choice

- ☐ We Endorse the Medical Cannabis & Cannabinoid Act!
- ☐ My organization would like to find out more about endorsing the Medical Cannabis & Cannabinoid Act.

- ☐ Yes! We are interested in scheduling a MCCA webinar with ASA for our membership.
- ☐ Yes! We would like a speaker to attend one of our meetings.
- ☐ Yes! We need materials to distribute to our members.

Please choose from the following

✓ Select all × Clear choices

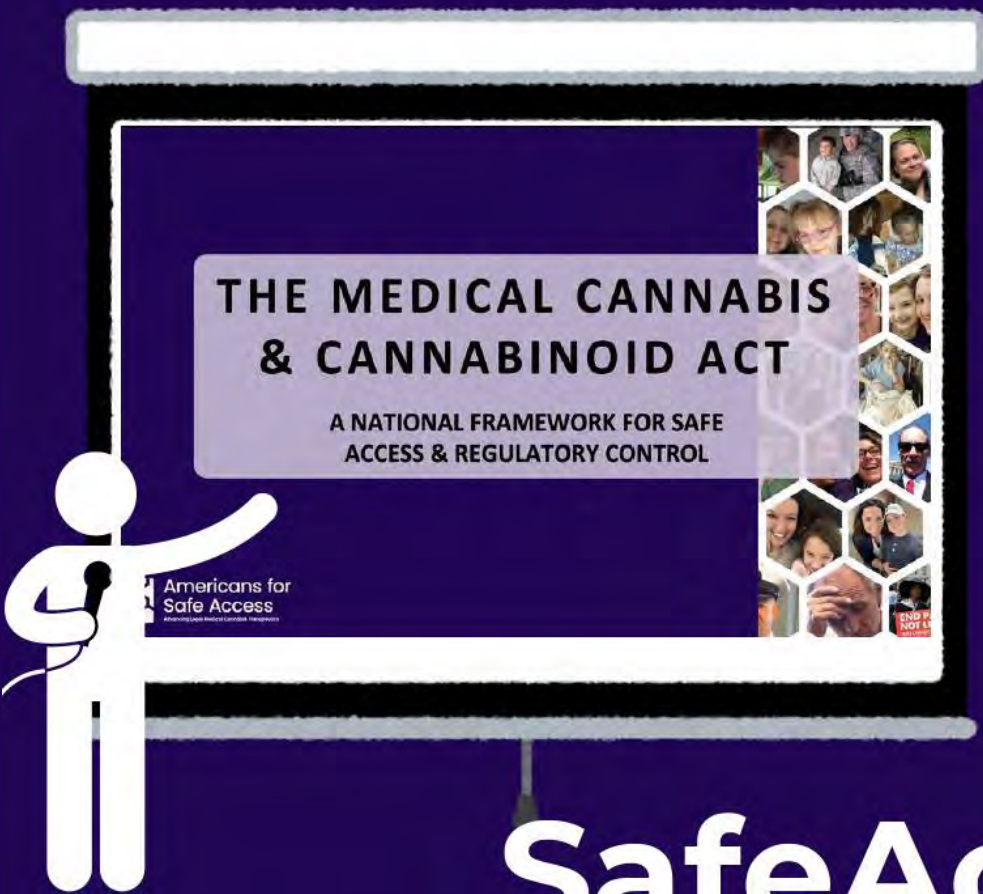
- ☐ We would like to to schedule a meeting with an ASA representative to learn more.
- ☐ We would like to attend a webinar about the MCCA.



[SafeAccessNow.org/Endorse\\_MCCA\\_Safe\\_Access\\_4\\_All](https://SafeAccessNow.org/Endorse_MCCA_Safe_Access_4_All)

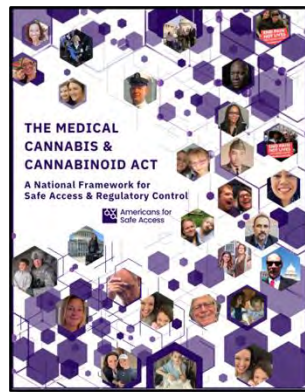


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[SafeAccess4All.org](https://SafeAccess4All.org)

# SafeAccess4All.org



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# Americans for Safe Access

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

# THANK YOU!