

THE COMPASSIONATE PLEDGE 2026



Across the country, millions of Americans, including seniors, veterans, children with complex medical conditions, and people living with rare diseases, chronic pain, or cancer, rely on cannabis and cannabinoid medicines. Many report improvements in quality of life, pain, sleep, and other symptoms, particularly when conventional treatments have provided inadequate relief or unacceptable side effects. Although the federal government now recognizes qualifying medical cannabis products within Schedule III, patients continue to face inconsistent access, discrimination, and federal policies that can interfere with their healthcare, housing, employment, and benefits.

I sign this pledge on behalf of these Americans, their families, their healthcare providers, and those in my state who continue to face barriers to safe and reliable medical cannabis access despite the progress made in federal and state law.

As a Member of the 120th Congress, I will be a voice for patients' rights in Washington and work to turn federal recognition of medical cannabis into meaningful patient protections and a national healthcare framework that ensures access and dignity, regardless of where Americans live, work, or receive care.

By signing this pledge, I commit to:

- ★ Co-sponsor comprehensive legislation to establish a national medical cannabis program housed under the Department of Health and Human Services (the Office of Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoid Control) that builds on existing state programs and oversees a new schedule for cannabis and cannabinoids.
- ★ Publicly advocate for medical cannabis patients and a national medical cannabis program.
- ★ Educate colleagues and leverage committees, caucuses, and/or leadership positions to advance the integration of medical cannabis into national healthcare systems, ensuring it is recognized as a legitimate treatment option and restoring the rights of patients.
- ★ Use oversight powers to ensure agencies enact policies and use resources to advance the protections for patients and the advancement of cannabis therapeutics as viable treatment options for all Americans.



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BREAKING DOWN THE COMPASSIONATE PLEDGE

The federal government has taken an important step toward recognizing medical cannabis, but the work of protecting patients and integrating cannabis and cannabinoid medicines into healthcare remains unfinished. The Compassionate Pledge identifies four commitments candidates can make to address these gaps and help establish a comprehensive national medical cannabis framework.

THE PLEDGE 2026



BY SIGNING THIS PLEDGE, I COMMIT TO:

CO-SPONSOR LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM WITH AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS & CANNABINOID CONTROL (OMC) & A NEW SCHEDULE FOR CANNABIS & CANNABINOIDS.

ADVOCATE FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS & A NATIONAL PROGRAM.

EDUCATE COLLEAGUES & USE POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE TO INTEGRATE MEDICAL CANNABIS INTO HEALTHCARE.

USE OVERSIGHT POWERS TO ENSURE AGENCY COMPLIANCE & PROTECT PATIENTS.

Almost every federal agency, including the FDA, HHS, NIH, HUD, VA, & DEA, oversees medical cannabis policies that impact patients. Congressional oversight is needed to ensure these agencies address outdated rules, coordinate implementation & examine barriers that continue to prevent patients from accessing appropriate medical cannabis care.

Comprehensive legislation is needed to establish a national medical cannabis program that integrates cannabis into the U.S. healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that all Americans have access to safe, regulated cannabis medicines, no matter where they live or work. ASA's Medical Cannabis & Cannabinoid Act was developed in collaboration with healthcare stakeholders & cannabis policy experts & stakeholders.

Publicly championing patients & a national medical cannabis program brings attention to the healthcare needs & patient experiences that are often overlooked in federal cannabis debates. Congressional leadership can connect the recognition of medical cannabis with practical policies that improve patient protections, treatment options & continuity of care.

Patients & medical cannabis policy took a back seat in the 119th Congress, even when cannabis policy was the topic of debate. This allowed a resurgence of the anti-marijuana lobby to target rescheduling efforts and patient protections with little visible objection from Congress. Educating colleagues & leveraging leadership roles, is key to overcoming the misconceptions & resistance to the integration of medical cannabis into national healthcare systems.



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