

130 E Aurora Ave  
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654

July 4, 2016

Chuck Grassley  
721 Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Amendment to, or replacement for,  
S. 683: CARERS Act of 2015

Dear Senator Grassley:

You have pending before your committee the CARERS Act of 2015, S. 683, which would change the classification of cannabis.

When we talked last year after your public hearing on cannabidiol on June 24, 2015, you said you were expecting administrative action on cannabidiol sometime during the first half of 2016. The first half of 2016 has come and gone, so I'm following up now to see why nothing has been done as you predicted it would. In other words, who is stalling? You, or the administrative agencies?

The argument I made then and the argument I make now is that the scheduling of the cannabis plant is a major obstacle in conducting research.

The DEA has no experience with rescheduling plants. All of the plants were placed in their current schedules by Congress in 1970 and remain where Congress placed them in 1970.

Over the past 20 years, a total of 42 states have enacted laws either recognizing the entire cannabis plant, or extracts from the cannabis plant, as medicine.

This is not only a public health crisis, but a constitutional crisis as well. You seem to think twiddling thumbs is the answer. I think Congress should provide the answer. There is no question that more research is needed, but it's clearly evident that Congress needs to even the playing field.

While I share your concern with removing barriers to banking for non-medical, commercial sale of marijuana, I think that belongs in a separate bill and not tied to cannabis rescheduling. I am not opposed to removing the restriction on banking, but that belongs in a separate bill so it can be considered on its own merits. You could introduce an amendment to the CARERS Act, S. 683, to resolve that issue. Or, better yet, you could just introduce your own bill making it clear that rescheduling cannabis does not make any state laws compliant with federal regulations without further action by the federal government.

Schedule 2 would not make any current state laws compliant with federal regulations, but neither would schedule 5. Marijuana would have to be removed from all 5 schedules to address the issue of current state medical cannabis laws, which I think is actually where this is all going to end up. But, baby steps are most likely going to be necessary to reach a resolution of this issue.

So, where do you stand on this issue now? Are you still waiting for the administrative agencies to resolve this? Or, do you concede this is going to require action by Congress?

Thank you!

Sincerely,

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