

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7900
OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the appropriate place in title VII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 7___ . STUDY AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE REGARD-**
2 **ING USE OF MEDICINAL CANNABIS TO TREAT**
3 **CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
4 **ON TERMINAL LEAVE.**

5 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct
6 a study on the use of medicinal cannabis as an alternative
7 to prescription opioids in the treatment of members of the
8 Armed Forces on terminal leave preceding separation, re-
9 tirement, or release from active duty.

10 (b) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall select par-
11 ticipants in the study under subsection (a) from among
12 members of the Armed Forces on terminal leave—

13 (1) who have been diagnosed with post trau-
14 matic stress disorder, a traumatic brain injury, or
15 any other condition involving severe pain, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary for purposes of this section;

17 (2) who but for such participation, would be
18 prescribed opioid medications in connection with the
19 treatment of such condition; and

1 (3) who elect to participate in the study (includ-
2 ing in the post-study monitoring under subsection
3 (c)).

4 (c) POST-STUDY MONITORING.—Following the con-
5 clusion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary
6 shall monitor the effects of such study on the health of
7 former participants by conducting assessments of such
8 former participants, and shall submit to the congressional
9 defense committees reports on the results of such moni-
10 toring, at the following intervals:

11 (1) One year after the date of such conclusion.

12 (2) Three years after the date of such conclu-
13 sion.

14 (d) EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS.—The eligibility
15 or entitlement of a member of the Armed Forces to any
16 other benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary
17 shall not be affected by the participation of the member
18 in the study under this section (including by participation
19 in the post-study monitoring under subsection (c)).

20 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
22 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
23 a report on the findings of the study under subsection (a).
24 Such report shall include—

1 (1) a description of any such findings relating
2 to the benefits or other effects of using medicinal
3 cannabis as an alternative to prescription opioids
4 under the study; and

5 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary
6 based on such findings.

7 (f) EDUCATION INITIATIVE.—The Secretary shall
8 carry out an education initiative regarding the use of me-
9 dicinal cannabis for the treatment of the conditions re-
10 ferred to in subsection (b)(1). In carrying out such initia-
11 tive, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

12 (1) to the extent practicable, the findings of the
13 study under subsection (a);

14 (2) the specific vulnerability to opioid abuse and
15 substance abuse disorder of individuals transitioning
16 from serving on active duty in the Armed Forces;
17 and

18 (3) best practices for reducing the stigmatiza-
19 tion of medicinal cannabis.

20 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) The terms “active duty” and “Armed
22 Forces” have the meaning given those terms in sec-
23 tion 101 of title 10, United States Code.

24 (2) The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means—

- 1 (A) the congressional defense committees;
- 2 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
- 3 merce of the House of Representatives; and
- 4 (C) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
- 5 and Transportation of the Senate.

