



July 23, 2020

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Blumenauer and Representative Harris:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our 40,000 members, thank you for introducing H.R. 3797, the “Medical Marijuana Research Act of 2019.” This bipartisan legislation amends the Controlled Substances Act to address burdens that impede research into the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

As emergency physicians, the life-saving treatment we provide to our patients is guided by evidence-based research. Unfortunately, federal policies targeted at illicit drug use have had the unintentional effect of creating artificial barriers that prevent research into the use of cannabis and related cannabinoids for legitimate medical purposes. To understand both the potential harms and benefits of any treatment option, rigorous and well-controlled research is vital to ensure the best possible health outcomes for our patients.

H.R. 3797 seeks to address this research gap by amending the Controlled Substances Act to establish a less burdensome registration process specifically for marijuana research, and also provides approved researchers with the ability to acquire cannabis needed for their studies. This legislation will also help ensure that physicians are equipped with the necessary knowledge and evidence-based training they need to provide patients who have serious health conditions with the appropriate high-quality health care they need and deserve.

Once again, thank you for your bipartisan leadership on this important issue. ACEP stands ready to work with you to secure enactment of this bill into law.

Sincerely,

William P. Jaquis, MD, MSHQS, FACEP
ACEP President

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2121 K Street NW, Suite 325
Washington, DC 20037-1886

202-728-0610
800-320-0610
www.acep.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William P. Jaquis, MD, MSHQS, FACEP
President
Mark S. Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP
President-Elect
Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD, FACEP
Chair of the Board
Gillian R. Schmitz, MD, FACEP
Vice President
Christopher S. Kang, MD, FACEP
Secretary-Treasurer
Vidor E. Friedman, MD, FACEP
Immediate Past President
Stephen H. Anderson, MD, FACEP
L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP
John T. Finnell II, MD, MSc, FACEP
Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, FACEP
Allison J. Haddock, MD, FACEP
Gabor D. Kelen, MD, FACEP
Aisha T. Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP
Ryan A. Stanton, MD, FACEP

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Gary R. Katz, MD, MBA, FACEP
Speaker
Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP
Vice Speaker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dean Wilkerson, JD, MBA, CAE