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January 22, 2019

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
United States House of Representatives  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith,

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the world's largest association of neurologists representing more than 34,000 professionals, is strongly committed to improving the care and outcomes of persons with neurologic illness in a cost-effective manner. We would like to express our support for the Legitimate Use of Medicinal Marijuana Act.

Brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, autism, epilepsy, schizophrenia, depression, and traumatic brain injury, are projected to be some of the most disabling and costly chronic diseases in the coming years. One in six Americans will be diagnosed with a brain or nervous system disorder this year and the annual cost of treating neurologic disorders is more than \$500 billion.

The AAN supports all efforts to conduct rigorous research to evaluate the long-term safety and effectiveness of marijuana-based products. This includes requesting the reclassification of medical marijuana from their current Schedule 1 status to improve access for study of marijuana or cannabinoids under IRB-approved research protocols.

Regarding the use of medical marijuana, the AAN recognizes that there may be potential for the use of these agents in the treatment of neurologic disorders. However, there is not sufficient evidence at this time to make any definitive conclusions regarding the effectiveness of marijuana-based products for many neurologic conditions. Therefore, we are not advocating for legalization of prescriptions for medical marijuana-based products. Further research is urgently needed to determine the safety and medical benefit of various forms of marijuana in neurologic disorders.

Thank you for taking a leadership role on this critical issue. Please contact Derek Brandt at [dbrandt@aan.com](mailto:dbrandt@aan.com) if you have questions or request additional information.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN  
President, American Academy of Neurology