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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of institutions of higher education as Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of institutions of higher education as Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Developing and Na-  
5 tionalizing Key Cannabis Research Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. CANNABIS RESEARCH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
2 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

3 (a) NATIONAL CANNABIS RESEARCH AGENDA.—Part  
4 B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 409K. NATIONAL CANNABIS RESEARCH AGENDA.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
9 date of enactment of the Developing and Nationalizing  
10 Key Cannabis Research Act of 2022, the Director of NIH,  
11 in collaboration with the Director of the Centers for Dis-  
12 ease Control and Prevention, the Commissioner of Food  
13 and Drugs, and the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health  
14 and Substance Use, shall develop a national cannabis re-  
15 search agenda that addresses key questions and gaps in  
16 evidence, including with respect to each of the following:

17 “(1) The safety and efficacy of cannabis in pro-  
18 viding therapeutic benefits for certain priority dis-  
19 eases or conditions, which may include epilepsy, mul-  
20 tiple sclerosis-related spasticity, chemotherapy-in-  
21 duced pain and discomfort, using cannabis as an al-  
22 ternative to opioid analgesics for acute or chronic  
23 pain, sleep apnea, Tourette syndrome, anxiety, post-  
24 traumatic stress disorder, and any other disease or  
25 condition determined to be appropriate and of im-  
26 portance by the Director.

1           “(2) The effect of cannabis on at-risk popu-  
2           lations, including children, older individuals, and  
3           pregnant or breast-feeding women.

4           “(3) The nontherapeutic impacts of cannabis  
5           use in the short-term and long-term.

6           “(4) The long-term effects of cannabis use, in-  
7           cluding dose-response relationship and the connec-  
8           tion between cannabis use and behavioral health.

9           “(5) The clinically appropriate dosages and  
10          modes of delivery of cannabis.

11          “(6) Public safety considerations related to can-  
12          nabis, including—

13               “(A) variation in the potency of cannabis  
14               products;

15               “(B) youth access to and use of cannabis,  
16               including marketing, packaging, edible formula-  
17               tions, and flavor options that target youth;

18               “(C) risk factors for cannabis misuse;

19               “(D) impaired driving related to cannabis  
20               use;

21               “(E) accidental ingestion of cannabis; and

22               “(F) relative risk of cannabis as compared  
23               to alcohol and tobacco.

24          “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘can-  
25          nabis’ means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L.,

1 whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin ex-  
2 tracted from any part of such plant; and every compound,  
3 manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of  
4 such plant, its seeds, or its resin.”.

5 (b) SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES.—Part A of title III  
6 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.)  
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 310B. SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES ON CANNABIS USE.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
10 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
11 vention, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary for  
12 Mental Health and Substance Use, the Administrator of  
13 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Di-  
14 rector of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,  
15 shall carry out surveillance activities to collect population-  
16 wide data on cannabis use.

17 “(b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out activities  
19 under this section, the Secretary may collect, as ap-  
20 propriate, with respect to cannabis use—

21 “(A) data on—

22 “(i) health outcomes, including bio-  
23 logical data;

24 “(ii) health care utilization, which  
25 shall include hospitalizations and utiliza-

1                   tion of emergency departments related to  
2                   consumption of cannabis, including among  
3                   youth;

4                   “(iii) demographic factors associated  
5                   with cannabis use;

6                   “(iv) the variety of products and deliv-  
7                   ery modes used; and

8                   “(v) other relevant health information  
9                   to improve the understanding of cannabis  
10                  use in all age groups and sub-populations;  
11                  and

12                 “(B) data through public health surveil-  
13                 lance systems, surveys, questionnaires, and  
14                 databases of health care records, including, as  
15                 appropriate, the Behavioral Risk Factor Sur-  
16                 veillance System, the Youth Risk Behavioral  
17                 Surveillance System, the Monitoring the Future  
18                 health survey, the National Survey on Drug  
19                 Use and Health, or the Healthcare Cost and  
20                 Utilization Project (or any successor surveys).

21                 “(2) PRIVACY.—Any data collected under para-  
22                 graph (1) shall be collected in manner that protects  
23                 personal privacy to the extent, at a minimum, that  
24                 is required under applicable Federal and State law.

1       “(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘can-  
2 nabis’ means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L.,  
3 whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin ex-  
4 tracted from any part of such plant; and every compound,  
5 manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of  
6 such plant, its seeds, or its resin.”.

7 **SEC. 3. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANNABIS RE-**  
8 **SEARCH.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title IV of the Public  
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.), as amended  
11 by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the  
12 following:

13 **“SEC. 409L. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANNABIS RE-**  
14 **SEARCH.**

15       “(a) DESIGNATION.—

16               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall  
17 designate institutions of higher education as Centers  
18 of Excellence in Cannabis Research for the purpose  
19 of interdisciplinary research related to cannabis and  
20 other biomedical, behavioral, and social issues re-  
21 lated to cannabis.

22               “(2) APPLICATION.—To be designated as a  
23 Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research, an insti-  
24 tution of higher education shall submit an applica-  
25 tion to, and receive approval from, the Director of

1 NIH. Such an application shall be submitted in such  
2 manner and contain such information as the Direc-  
3 tor of NIH may reasonably require. The Director of  
4 NIH may not approve such an application unless—

5 “(A) the application contains or is sup-  
6 ported by reasonable assurances that—

7 “(i) the applicant has the experience,  
8 or capability—

9 “(I) to conduct, through bio-  
10 medical, behavioral, social, and related  
11 disciplines, long-term research on can-  
12 nabis; and

13 “(II) to provide coordination of  
14 such research among such disciplines;

15 “(ii) the applicant has available to it  
16 sufficient personnel and facilities (includ-  
17 ing laboratory, reference, storage, security,  
18 and data analysis facilities) to carry out  
19 the research plan required under subpara-  
20 graph (B);

21 “(iii) the applicant has the capacity to  
22 conduct academic courses and train stu-  
23 dents and professionals on appropriate re-  
24 search and knowledge of cannabis; and

1                   “(iv) the applicant will secure State  
2                   funds for research related to cannabis to  
3                   complement any Federal funds for such re-  
4                   search under this section; and

5                   “(B) the application contains a detailed 5-  
6                   year plan for research relating to cannabis.

7                   “(3) PRIORITY.—In selecting institutions of  
8                   higher education for designation as Centers of Ex-  
9                   cellence in Cannabis Research, the Director of NIH  
10                  shall give priority to such institutions that have  
11                  proven track records in medicinal cannabis research.

12                  “(4) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The Di-  
13                  rector of NIH shall, to the extent practicable, ensure  
14                  geographic representation across the United States  
15                  in designating institutions of higher education as  
16                  Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research.

17                  “(5) TERM OF DESIGNATION.—A designation  
18                  under this section shall be for a period of 5 years,  
19                  so long as the institution of higher education con-  
20                  tinues to meet the requirements of paragraph (2).  
21                  An institution of higher education may reapply in  
22                  accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2)  
23                  for a subsequent designation under this section.

24                  “(b) CANNABIS RESEARCH.—

1           “(1) GRANTS OR COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
2 MENTS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH  
4 may make grants to, or enter into cooperative  
5 agreements with, 10 Centers that have been  
6 designated under this section to expand the cur-  
7 rent and ongoing interdisciplinary research and  
8 clinical trials relating to cannabis research.

9           “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
10 TIONS.—To carry out this paragraph, there is  
11 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for  
12 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

13           “(2) RESEARCH RESULTS.—The Director of  
14 NIH shall promptly disseminate research results  
15 under this subsection to relevant governmental, aca-  
16 demic, and research entities.

17           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18           “(1) The term ‘cannabis’ means all parts of the  
19 plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not;  
20 the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part  
21 of such plant; and every compound, manufacture,  
22 salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such  
23 plant, its seeds, or its resin.

1           “(2) The term ‘institution of higher education’  
2           has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of  
3           the Higher Education Act of 1965.”.

4           (b) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 303 of  
5           the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amend-  
6           ed by adding at the end the following:

7           “(1) REGISTRATION OF PRACTITIONERS AT CENTERS  
8           OF EXCELLENCE IN CANNABIS RESEARCH.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
10           register under subsection (f) practitioners at Centers  
11           of Excellence in Cannabis Research designated  
12           under section 409L of the Public Health Service Act  
13           to conduct research with marijuana.

14           “(2) TESTING OF CONSTITUENTS.—To the ex-  
15           tent a Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research in  
16           a State tests marijuana products that are lawfully  
17           available for such testing in such State for  
18           cannabinoid and noncannabinoid constituents, no  
19           sanction under this title shall apply to such testing,  
20           including the acquisition of such products for such  
21           testing.

22           “(3) USE OF MARIJUANA PRODUCTS UNDER  
23           STATE LAW.—No sanction under this title shall  
24           apply to the acquisition or use of marijuana prod-  
25           ucts for a clinical trial or other research to the ex-

1       tent such clinical trial or other research is con-  
2       ducted—

3               “(A) to further the goals of the national  
4               cannabis research agenda under section 409K;  
5               and

6               “(B) at a Center of Excellence in Cannabis  
7               Research in a State using marijuana products  
8               that are lawfully available for such purpose  
9               under laws of the State.

10              “(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
11              ‘Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research’ means  
12              a Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research for  
13              which a designation is in effect under section  
14              409L(a) of the Public Health Service Act.”.