

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 28, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Schumer:

As you work with the Appropriations Committees to negotiate a fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations bill to fund the government beyond December 8, 2017, we write to express our support for the inclusion of a provision that provides protections from the federal government to states that have medical marijuana laws on the books.

The provision, which first became law in December 2014, has successfully protected patients, providers, and businesses against federal prosecution, so long as they act within the confines of their state's medical marijuana laws. These protections extend to 46 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, all of which allow some form of medical marijuana that is strictly prohibited by the federal government—from CBD oils to the full plant. The language is supported by a bipartisan majority of the House, last passing as a standalone provision by a vote of 242-186 in 2015.

Specifically, we urge you to include in any final negotiated package the language adopted by the Senate Appropriations Committee in July by voice vote during their markup of the FY '18 CJS appropriations bill:

None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any such State or jurisdiction from implementing a law that authorizes the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

We appreciate the difficult task before you. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Don Pender

Anna Tetu

M. K. Green

Ac Green

Jack Scholz

Peter Weller

Ad Smith

Neil Zuber

Earl Blum

Thomas Massie

Quart Hill

Alan B. Selby

Don Young

Bobby Lee

Betty Mullen

Ilona Ros-Lehtinen

Cathy A. Lugh

Walter B. Jones

J. N. Chis

Diana Belletti

Cleann H. Norton

Jack Jones

Paul Poling

SOB

Paul Hopper

Brad Green

Blake Fubell

Bob [unclear]

Jermel Hadler

Rochey Davis

Kathleen M. Rice

[unclear]

John Hall

Carl C. [unclear]

Beto O'Rourke.

Nanette Diaz Barayon

Sen Sutra

Ken Buck

J. Luis Com

Suzanne Brannin.

Ted S. Yoda

Jim McJannet

Denny Heck

William F. Kelly

Paul P. Joyce

Donald S. Beyer Jr

Rob Blum

A. Paul Ferguson

Rolla

Matt Mast

Charlie Crist

Juan Luis

Paul H. J.

Guth Taylor

Tom Finneran

Ted W. Lien

Erin Smeal

Justin

L.O. Cell

Joe Rosen

Ryan Costello

David Young

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Alan Lowenthal

John Duncan Jr.

Jamie Raskin