

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 127

To extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

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 “Compassionate Access,  
5       Research Expansion, and Respect States Act of 2019” or  
6       the “CARERS Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERALISM IN DRUG POLICY.**

2 Section 708 of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
3 U.S.C. 903) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “No provision” and inserting  
5 the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
7 (b), no provision”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW.—Notwith-  
10 standing any other provision of law, the provisions of this  
11 title relating to marihuana shall not apply to any person  
12 acting in compliance with State law, as determined by the  
13 State, relating to the production, possession, distribution,  
14 dispensation, administration, laboratory testing, recom-  
15 mending use, or delivery of medical marihuana.”.

16 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION OF CANNABIDIOL FROM DEFINITION OF**  
17 **MARIHUANA.**

18 Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
19 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (16)—

21 (A) by striking “or cake, or the sterilized”  
22 and inserting “cake, the sterilized”; and

23 (B) by adding “, or cannabidiol” before  
24 the period at the end; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(57) The term ‘cannabidiol’ means the sub-  
2           stance cannabidiol, as derived from marihuana or  
3           the synthetic formulation, that contains not greater  
4           than 0.3 percent delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol on a  
5           dry weight basis.”.

6 **SEC. 4. CANNABIDIOL DETERMINATION BY STATES.**

7           Section 201 of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
8           U.S.C. 811) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9           lowing:

10          “(k) CANNABIDIOL DETERMINATION.—If a person  
11          grows or processes marihuana for purposes of making  
12          cannabidiol in accordance with State law, the marihuana  
13          shall be deemed to meet the concentration limitation under  
14          section 102(57), unless the Attorney General determines  
15          that the State law is not reasonably calculated to comply  
16          with section 102(57).”.

17 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
19          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and  
20          Human Services shall terminate the Public Health Service  
21          interdisciplinary review process described in the guidance  
22          entitled “Guidance on Procedures for the Provision of  
23          Marijuana for Medical Research” (issued on May 21,  
24          1999).

1 (b) LICENSES FOR MARIJUANA RESEARCH.—Not  
2 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,  
3 the Attorney General, acting through the Drug Enforce-  
4 ment Administration, shall issue not less than 3 licenses  
5 under section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
6 U.S.C. 823) to manufacture and distribute marijuana and  
7 marijuana-derivatives for research approved by the Food  
8 and Drug Administration.

9 (c) MARIJUANA RESEARCH.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(f) of the Con-  
11 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)) is amend-  
12 ed—

13 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
14 through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E),  
15 respectively;

16 (B) by striking “(f) The Attorney General”  
17 and inserting “(f)(1) The Attorney General”;

18 (C) by striking “Registration applications”  
19 and inserting the following:

20 “(2) Registration applications”;

21 (D) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by  
22 striking “schedule I” each place that term ap-  
23 pears and inserting “schedule I, except mari-  
24 juana,”;

1 (E) by striking “Article 7” and inserting  
2 the following:

3 “(4) Article 7”; and

4 (F) by inserting before paragraph (4), as  
5 so designated, the following:

6 “(3)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of  
7 enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall promul-  
8 gate regulations that require the Secretary to register a  
9 practitioner to conduct research on marihuana if—

10 “(i) the applicant is authorized to dispense, or  
11 conduct research with respect to, controlled sub-  
12 stances in schedules II, III, IV, and V under the  
13 laws of the State in which the applicant practices;  
14 and

15 “(ii) the applicant’s research protocol—

16 “(I) has been reviewed and allowed by—

17 “(aa) the Secretary under section  
18 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
19 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)); or

20 “(bb) the National Institutes of  
21 Health or another Federal agency that  
22 funds scientific research; or

23 “(II) in the case of nonhuman research  
24 that is not federally funded, has been volun-

1           tarily submitted by the applicant to, and ap-  
2           proved by, the National Institutes of Health.

3           “(B) The Secretary shall grant an application for  
4 registration under this paragraph unless the Secretary de-  
5 termines that the issuance of the registration would be in-  
6 consistent with the public interest. In determining the  
7 public interest, the Secretary shall consider the following  
8 factors:

9           “(i) The applicant’s experience in dispensing, or  
10          conducting research with respect to, controlled sub-  
11          stances.

12          “(ii) Compliance with applicable Federal or  
13          State laws relating to controlled substances.

14          “(iii) Conduct by the applicant that may threat-  
15          en the public health and safety.”.

16          (2)       CONFORMING     AMENDMENT.—Section  
17          102(16) of the Controlled Substances Act (21  
18          U.S.C. 802(16)) is amended by inserting “or ‘mari-  
19          juana’” after “The term ‘marihuana’”.

1 **SEC. 6. PROVISION BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
2 **FAIRS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF REC-**  
3 **COMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS REGARDING**  
4 **VETERAN PARTICIPATION IN STATE MARI-**  
5 **JUANA PROGRAMS.**

6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall authorize physicians and  
8 other health care providers employed by the Department  
9 of Veterans Affairs to—

10 (1) provide recommendations and opinions to  
11 veterans who are residents of States with State  
12 marijuana programs regarding the participation of  
13 veterans in such State marijuana programs; and

14 (2) complete forms reflecting such recommenda-  
15 tions and opinions.

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