

September 1, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the 16 undersigned disability, patient, physician, and research organizations, write to urge you to take up and pass H.R. 8454, the Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Act. Many people with disabilities and chronic conditions are currently using medical cannabis. However, the state of the science on the risks and benefits varies greatly depending on the condition they seek to treat. This bill will facilitate long-overdue domestic research into the potential therapeutic benefits and harms of medical cannabis.

There are currently significant obstacles for scientists and researchers to conduct research into the risks and benefits of medical cannabis, or to organize clinical trials and other research. Currently, researchers only have access to cannabis grown in a few places, meaning that they cannot research on the products available in their states. Researchers at universities cannot conduct cannabis research without risking their federal funding. Pharmaceutical development research must be conducted abroad before U.S. clinical trials can start.

This legislation would break down the barriers to research to help us better understand the potential therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis by creating a new process for registering as a cannabis researcher. This will allow research institutions to manufacture, obtain, store, process, and dispense cannabis for research purposes without violating the law or risking federal funding. It will also allow them to conduct research on more types of cannabis, including the cannabis available in their states. Finally, the bill would clarify that physicians can discuss the potential harms and benefits of cannabis with their patients without violating the Controlled Substances Act.

The state of the science on medical cannabis varies greatly by condition. However, all of the people we represent need a better understanding of the risks and benefits of medical cannabis so that alongside their healthcare providers, they can determine the best treatment course. We urge you to pass H.R. 8454 without delay. For more information, please contact Rachel Patterson, Senior Director of Federal Relations and Policy at the Epilepsy Foundation at [rpatterson@efa.org](mailto:rpatterson@efa.org).

Sincerely,

Epilepsy Foundation  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Heart Association  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Council for Federal Cannabis Regulation  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Lupus Foundation of America  
National Eczema Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Research!America  
The Arc of the United States  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research