



## **Co-Sponsor the CARERS ACT and Respect State Drug Policy**

The Bipartisan Compassionate Access, Research Expansion, and Respect States Act of 2017 (CARERS Act of 2017 (S.1764/H.R.2920)), seeks to reform cannabis policy in the United States. The CARERS Act is one of the most comprehensive pieces of cannabis reform legislation in the Senate. If passed, it would protect users of medical cannabis who comply with state laws from unwarranted federal prosecution. The CARERS Act would also greatly expand the opportunity for medical and scientific research on the uses and effects of medical cannabis.

### **Federalism**

The CARERS Act reduces the role of the Federal Government in formulating drug policy and allows states to make determinations on their own medical cannabis policies. Giving the power to medical cannabis policy to the States reinforces the principles of federalism on which our Country was founded.

### **Expanded Research**

The CARERS Act of 2017 recognizes the immense value of further research into medical cannabis and cannabinoids. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recently published report a report that is nearly 400 pages that indicates that there is substantial evidence that cannabis and cannabinoids are effective in treating chronic pain in adults, nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy, and improving multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms. The report includes information about an additional 20 conditions that could be treated with cannabis, but recognizes the limitations of available information. With expanded research on cannabis allowed under the CARERS act, the gaps in knowledge and information could be resolved.

### **Veterans Affairs**

Additionally, the CARERS Act would improve veteran access to medical care in states with medical cannabis programs. In states where medical cannabis is legal, Veterans Affairs doctors would be able to recommend cannabis as a treatment for wounded warriors.

### **Removes CBD from the Controlled Substances Act**

Twenty-nine states that have passed comprehensive medical cannabis laws, and an additional 16 states have legalized possession of certain low-THC cannabis extract known as cannabidiol or CBD. The CARERS Act removes CBD from the Controlled Substances Act. CBD lacks the psychoactive compounds that are typically associated with cannabis and has been deemed effective in treating numerous conditions, such as intractable epileptic seizures.

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