

# Union Calendar No. 533

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5520

[Report No. 115–690]

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2018

Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 18, 2018

Additional sponsors: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. PETERS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POLIS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CRIST, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. LAMB, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. QUIGLEY

MAY 18, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 16, 2018]

# **A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis, 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 “VA Medicinal Cannabis*  
5 *Research Act of 2018”.*

6 **SEC. 2. CONDUCT OF RESEARCH INTO EFFECTS OF CAN-**  
7 **NABIS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CERTAIN**  
8 **VETERANS.**

9 *(a) RESEARCH.—In carrying out the responsibilities*  
10 *of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 7303 of*  
11 *title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may conduct and*  
12 *support research relating to the efficacy and safety of forms*  
13 *of cannabis described in subsection (c) on the health out-*  
14 *comes of covered veterans diagnosed with chronic pain,*  
15 *post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions the Sec-*  
16 *retary determines appropriate. The Secretary shall ensure*  
17 *that such research is conducted in accordance with applica-*  
18 *ble regulations relating to the oversight of research, includ-*  
19 *ing such regulations prescribed by the Office of Research*  
20 *and Development of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the*  
21 *Department of Health and Human Services (including*  
22 *through the National Institute on Drug Abuse), the Food*  
23 *and Drug Administration, the Drug Enforcement Adminis-*  
24 *tration, and the National Institutes of Health.*

1           (b) *DATA PRESERVATION.*—*Research conducted pursu-*  
2 *ant to subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to ensure*  
3 *the preservation of all data, including all data sets, collected*  
4 *or used for purposes of the research required by subsection*  
5 *(a) in a manner that will facilitate further research.*

6           (c) *FORMS OF CANNABIS TO BE RESEARCHED.*—*The*  
7 *forms of cannabis described in this subsection are—*

8                   (1) *varying forms of cannabis, including—*

9                           (A) *full plants and extracts;*

10                           (B) *at least three different strains of can-*  
11 *nabis with significant variants in phenotypic*  
12 *traits and various ratios of tetrahydrocannabinol*  
13 *and cannabidiol in chemical composition; and*

14                           (C) *other chemical analogs of tetrahydro-*  
15 *cannabinol; and*

16                   (2) *varying methods of cannabis delivery, in-*  
17 *cluding topical application, combustible and non-*  
18 *combustible inhalation, and ingestion.*

19           (d) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—*If the Secretary conducts and*  
20 *supports research under subsection (a), the Secretary*  
21 *shall—*

22                   (1) *before conducting and supporting such re-*  
23 *search, develop a plan to implement this section and*  
24 *submit such plan to the Committees on Veterans' Af-*

1       *fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate;*  
2       *and*

3               (2) *issue any requests for proposals the Secretary*  
4       *determines appropriate for such implementation.*

5       (e) *REPORTS.*—*During the five-year period beginning*  
6 *on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*  
7 *submit periodically, but not less frequently than annually,*  
8 *to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-*  
9 *resentatives and the Senate reports on—*

10              (1) *the implementation of this section; or*

11              (2) *the rationale of the Secretary with respect to*  
12       *determining not to implement this section.*

13       (f) *COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.*—*In this section, the*  
14 *term “covered veteran” means a veteran who is enrolled in*  
15 *the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans*  
16 *Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.*

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