We are grateful that in 2015, the Virginia General Assembly nearly unanimously passed the current law that provides patients with intractable epilepsy an affirmative defense in using Cannabidiol (CBD) or Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCa) to treat their condition with a signed certificate from their doctor. However, it does not provide for quality controlled production or distribution within Virginia.

Therefore, patients and caregivers must break Federal and State laws to obtain the oils, making them criminals.

SB701 Will:

- Authorizes a pharmaceutical processor, after obtaining a permit from the Board of Pharmacy and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, to manufacture and provide CBD and THCa oil.
- Requires the Board of Pharmacy to adopt regulations establishing health, safety, and security requirements for permitted processors.
- Requires that the manufacture of CBD and THCa oils are done in accordance with requirements for compounding drug products.
- Requires a practitioner who issues a written certification for CBD and THCa oils and the patient or his primary caregiver to register with the Board.
- Requires a permitted pharmaceutical processor, prior to providing CBD or THCa oil, to verify that both the patient or the primary caregiver and the practitioner who issues a written certification have registered with the Board.
- Provides criminal liability protection for pharmaceutical processors.
Epilepsy and Cannabis Facts

• Twenty-three (23) states now have laws allowing for full medical cannabis.

• Another seventeen states have limited Cannabidiol (CBD) laws (some allow THCa).

• 27,000 Virginians live with uncontrolled seizures.

• Research shows that if a person with epilepsy fails three anti-epileptic drugs (AEDS), the chances of another drug working is only about 1%.

• Anti-epileptic drugs are highly toxic and often not tolerated by the patient. Side effects include, but are not limited to: cognitive functioning, issues, liver failure, kidney failure, suicide, new seizure types, and death.

• Cannabis has been used to successfully treat various medical conditions dating back at least 3,000 years.

• Some Virginia families have had to relocate to Colorado in order to treat their children’s seizures with medical cannabis.

• Phytocannabinoids, found in cannabis, have potent anticonvulsant effects which are mediated by the human cannabinoid system. (Source: dos Santos, R.G. Phytocannabinoids and epilepsy. Journal of clinical pharmacy and therapeutics. (04/2015), 40(2), p. 135-143.

• The United States Government holds the patent on cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants (US6630507 B1).

For more information contact:
Beth Collins  202.618.6978
beth@safeaccessnow.org