

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the patient community, we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to ensure that the amendment introduced by Ranking Member Leahy and subsequently included in the Senate's 2018 Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill that prohibits the Justice Department from using funds to prevent states from "implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession or cultivation of medical marijuana" is included in the 2018 final appropriations bill.

Our organizations advocate for millions of Americans living with various severe and debilitating medical conditions. We have seen first-hand the devastation these conditions can inflict upon patients and their loved ones. We are committed to exploring and advocating for all potential treatment options, including medical cannabis for those individuals who could benefit from its therapeutic use.

We believe that the over 2 million patients currently utilizing medical cannabis in the United States, who act in compliance with their state laws, should remain protected from federal interference and prosecution. These patients, in accordance to their doctors' recommendations, deserve to continue their course of treatment as was afforded to them under the previous versions of this amendment.

Please do not let politics get in the way of patient care.

Please direct questions to Beth Collins, Americans for Safe Access, at beth@safeaccessnow.org.

Signed,

Americans for Safe Access

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

US Pain Foundation

Tourette Association of America

Realm of Caring

National Women's Health Network