



February 7, 2018

Indiana House of Representatives
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation and our local affiliate, Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana, we urge you to support Senate Bill 52, which would create limited protections for cannabidiol (CBD) retailers and require testing for CBD products, to improve safe access to CBD as a treatment option.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. We foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime. There is no "one size fits all" treatment for epilepsy, and about a third of people living with epilepsy suffer from uncontrolled or intractable seizures, with many more living with significant side-effects, despite available treatments. Uncontrolled seizures can lead to disability, injury, and even death. This is why people living with uncontrolled seizures turn to medical cannabis when other options have failed.

The Epilepsy Foundation is committed to supporting physician-directed care, and to exploring and advocating for all potential treatment options for epilepsy, including cannabidiol (CBD) and medical cannabis. People with uncontrolled seizures live with the continual risk of serious injuries and loss of life. If a patient and their health care professionals feel that the potential benefits of medical cannabis for uncontrolled epilepsy outweigh the risks, then families need to have that legal option. Nothing should stand in the way of patients gaining access to this potentially lifesaving treatment.

Currently, the medical use of cannabis or CBD is legal per state law in the majority of states. In these states, a number of people living with epilepsy report beneficial effects, including a decrease in seizure activity, when using a cannabis strain rich in cannabidiol. The state can play a critical role in ensuring that access to medical cannabis is safe and reliable. Senate Bill 52 would create limited protections for retailers and allow individuals to legally and safely access this potential treatment option. Not everyone with epilepsy should or would consider medical cannabis as a treatment option, and further research is needed, but medical cannabis, when prescribed by a treating physician, may be the best alternative for some individuals living with drug resistant epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures. Legal access to cannabis would support

increased research efforts and allow individuals who have failed to gain seizure control on all existing therapies an option for treatment.

The Epilepsy Foundation urges you to support Senate Bill 52, which would ensure Indiana residents living with epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures can gain safe, legal access to medical cannabis as a treatment option. Please do not hesitate to contact Angela Ostrom, Chief Legal Officer & Vice President Public Policy, at 301-918-3766 or aostrom@efa.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ryan Keys
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Indian



Philip M. Gattone, M.Ed.
President & CEO
Epilepsy Foundation