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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Educations and Related Appropriations bill, I respectfully request \$50 million for cannabis research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), directing such sums as may be necessary to support coordinated multidisciplinary research on basic science, therapeutics or abuse and health effects of cannabis use; clinical science, translational programs; and the effects of cannabis legalization.

In FY19, NIH spent \$220 million to support a diverse portfolio of research on cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system. Yet research support typically relies on narrowly tailored program announcements and grants rather than a multipronged strategy wherein basic and clinical scientists and public health specialists work together to address the opportunities and challenges of cannabis in a comprehensive manner.

To that end, I respectfully request \$50 million to fund a mix of peer-reviewed scientific research, graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, and any required observational infrastructure. Given the exceedingly expansive nature of cannabis products nationwide, yet the limited understanding of the impact both positive and negative to public health, NIH is well positioned to launch a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary research initiative grounded as a public-private partnership. This partnership could include federal, state, and other entities to support Centers of Excellence nationwide to conduct cannabis research. For example, if priority were given to funding centers in States that have, or will commit to a co-funding model, then each dollar the Federal Government invests will yield two dollars in research support, a significant multiplier effect.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that practitioners conducting legitimate, medical cannabis research should be allowed to handle and study the cannabis products that are available for medical or recreational purchase or personal cultivation in states with robust regulatory provisions.

Currently, cannabis researchers must use cannabis products sourced through the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA) Drug Supply Program single DEA licensee (The University of Mississippi). This requirement prevents researchers from studying cannabis products used in commercial development and purchasing chemovars of cannabis from other sources, such as from widely used state dispensaries.

Given the increasing prevalence of cannabis use, I urge you to consider the importance of the rigorous study of the biologic and behavioral effects of cannabis in real world settings. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Anais Borja at [Anais.Borja@mail.house.gov](mailto:Anais.Borja@mail.house.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress