

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENCOURAGING THE SOUTH CAROLINA
LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD LEGALIZE THE USE OF
CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, medical cannabis is currently legal in thirty-six states and the District of Columbia (“DC”); and

WHEREAS, numerous health care organizations, including the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, the American Nurses Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, Lymphoma Foundation of America, American Preventive Medical Association, American Public Health Association, Epilepsy Foundation, and the New England Journal of Medicine have endorsed the medical use of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, research into the therapeutic use of cannabinoids has been conducted at The University of South Carolina over the past fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, a Winthrop University Poll conducted in December of 2016 indicated that seventy-eight percent of South Carolinians support the legalization of medical cannabis; and

WHEREAS, during their 2016 convention the American Legion passed a resolution to; first recommend DEA license privately-funded marijuana production operations for the safe and efficient development of cannabis drugs, and second to recommend that Congress amend legislation to remove Marijuana from Schedule 1 and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum, would recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value, and

WHEREAS, recent analyses of prescription data from Medicare Part D enrollees in states with medical access to cannabis suggest a significant reduction in the prescription of conventional pain medications (Bradford and Bradford, 2016).; and

WHEREAS, compassion dictates that State law should make a distinction between the medical and nonmedical use of cannabis. The purpose of the South Carolina Compassionate Care Act is to protect patients with debilitating conditions, their physicians, caregivers and businesses from arrest and prosecution, criminal and other penalties, and property forfeiture by providing safe access to medical cannabis in a regulated system for the purpose of alleviating symptoms caused by debilitating medical conditions and their treatments; and

WHEREAS, patients, in conjunction with their physicians, should be allowed to make medical decisions and explore all potential treatment options including medical cannabis; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Liberty Caucus affirms that patients should have access to all viable medical options that could help alleviate symptoms associated with debilitating medical conditions, in order to help assure them of the best quality of life possible; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Liberty Caucus supports a patients' right, in consultation with their physician, to have access to the most appropriate, beneficial treatment options for their condition, supports putting an end to prosecution, arrest, investigation and imprisonment of qualified patients and their caregivers for medical cannabis offenses, and supports a system that will provide legal access to safe, tested cannabis products for therapeutic use in treating debilitating conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Republican Liberty Caucus of South Carolina hereby encourages the South Carolina General Assembly to take immediate action to approve legislation, such as the South Carolina Compassionate Care Act, which changes in State law to allow and authorize manufacturing, production and distribution of safe, tested medical cannabis products for qualified patients, and encourages the South Carolina Republican Party to support the same, in order to ensure our County and State residents are able to legally access the most effective medical therapies possible, which includes the use of medical cannabis.

Adopted this the 4th day of January, 2022.