

SUPPORT HB 577: Authorization of CBD Oil

HB 577 authorizes the use of cannabidiol oil (CBD oil) if prescribed by a doctor. CBD oil is an important medical treatment for adults and children suffering from ailments ranging from epilepsy to anxiety. Denying the medical benefits of cannabis— and thus treating it differently than more serious drugs subject to extreme abuse — is scientifically unsound and deprives seriously ill patients of much-needed pain relief.

HB 577 legalizes CBD oil, a medicine that provides unique relief to suffering Idahoans.

- CBD oil is a medical necessity for many adults and children suffering from seizures and epilepsy, neuroinflammation, vomiting and nausea, anxiety and schizophrenia, cancer and the side effects of chemotherapy, and chronic pain^{1,2}. Contemporary scientific evidence confirms the therapeutic effects of this form of medical marijuana, which has provided unique relief for serious conditions when no other medicine is as effective or free of side effects.
- Nearly one million patients nationwide now use medical marijuana as recommended by their doctors and in accordance with state laws. Idahoans should also be able to access the therapeutic effects of CBD oil without fear of prosecution or criminal charges.

HB 577 poses no serious risk to public safety.

- This bill ensures CBD oil is well regulated and for medical usage only. In order to legally possess CBD oil, an individual would have to be an Idaho resident, have a statement signed by a doctor indicating that they suffer from an illness and may benefit from treatment with CBD oil, and have parental permission if under 18.
- CBD oil is defined in HB 577 as containing primarily CBD and only trace amounts of THC (no more than .3% by weight) formulated to not produce a psychoactive or hallucinogenic effect. By definition, it is clear that CBD oil does not allow the user to enter an altered state of mind nor could it be used as a recreational drug.

HB 577 is a significant step toward rational drug policy in Idaho.

- This bill recognizes the negative consequences of criminalizing individuals who seek the use of natural treatment options for their serious illness. Idahoans should not have to fear arrest, prosecution, and incarceration as they seek medically and scientifically supported treatment options, such as CBD oil.
- In Idaho we believe our laws should be practical and they should be fair. Today we are wasting tax dollars by having police, prosecutors and the courts treat medical marijuana users like violent criminals. HB 577 would remove criminal cases from the prosecutorial apparatus and make prisons less crowded. Furthermore, this bill will conserve important societal resources, including law enforcement, legal, and court costs and free the police to focus on keeping us safe.

¹ Fernandez-Ruiz, J., et al., 2013, *Br J Clin Pharmacol*, 75(2): 323-33. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2125.2012.04341.x.

² Marijuana and Cancer, 2015, American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatments-and-side-effects/complementary-and-alternative-medicine/marijuana-and-cancer.html>