


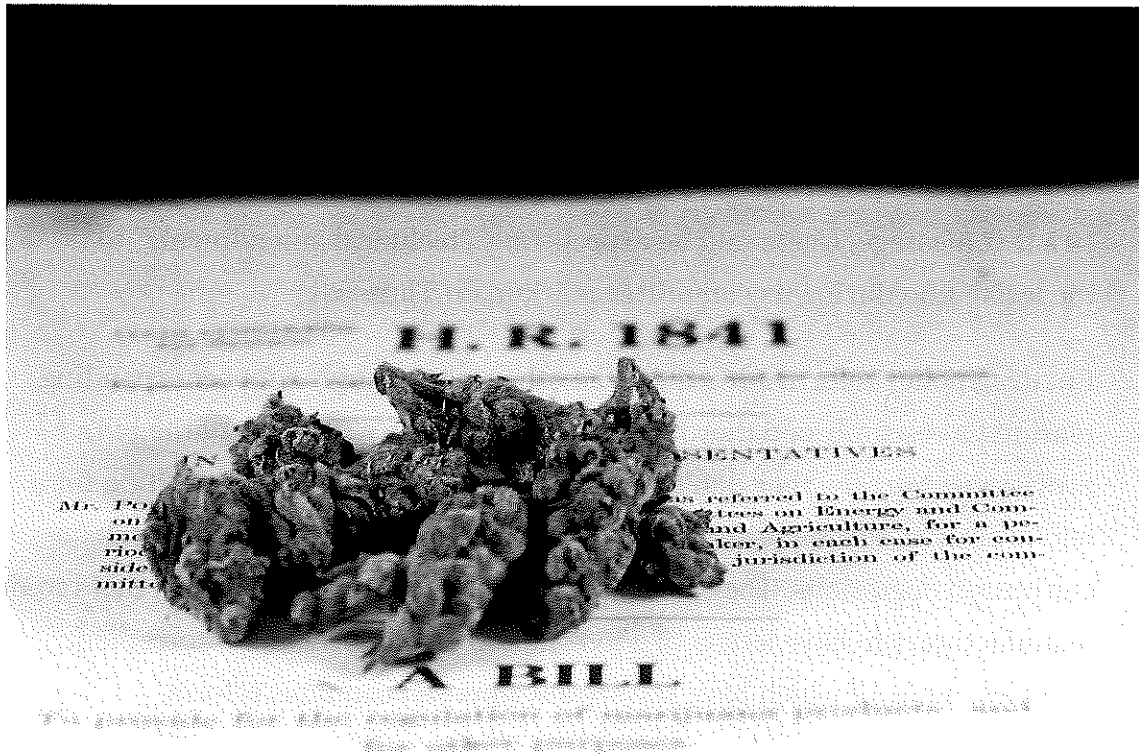
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Marijuana Bill Scheduled For Congressional Vote This Week



Tom Angell Contributor 
Policy

The U.S. House panel that oversees federal drug enforcement is scheduled to vote this week on a bill to dramatically expand opportunities for research on the medical benefits of marijuana.



TOM SYDOW TOM SYDOW

Sponsored by Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and 40 bipartisan cosponsors, the Medical Cannabis Research Act would require that the federal government

issue more licenses to grow marijuana to be used in scientific studies, among other changes.

For the past half century, a farm at the University of Mississippi has been the sole legal source of cannabis for research. But scientists have often complained that it is difficult to obtain product from the facility and that it is often of low quality.

"The federal government should not stand in the way of collaboration that can help people live better lives," Gaetz said in a phone interview about the proposed expansion, which will go before the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday.

If enacted, the proposal will "increase the amount of research-grade cannabis available to unlock cures," the congressman said. "This will be the first time that a cannabis reform bill will make it through the Judiciary Committee during Republican control of the Congress, ever."

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In a text message, Gaetz said he expects only "technical amendments" to the legislation during its committee markup on Thursday.

But drug policy reform advocates who otherwise strongly support expanding marijuana research said they have serious concerns with some of the bill's provisions. Namely, they don't like that it bars people with a "conviction for a felony or drug-related misdemeanor" from being affiliated with research cultivation operations. They also take objection to a separate section that requires manufacturers to have letters of good standing from local law enforcement agencies, many of which have historically opposed cannabis reform.

While legalization supporters have sometimes been willing to accept compromises to advance less-than-ideal reform legislation, the issue of preventing people who have been caught up in the war on drugs from joining the legal industry has increasingly become a major concern for racial and social justice advocates who

point out that marijuana prohibition has been enforced in a manner that has disproportionately impacted African Americans and other people of color.

"Precedent is the biggest concern," Michael Collins, interim director of the Drug Policy Alliance's Office of National Affairs, said in a phone interview. "If the committee is already on the record saying we ban people from participating in this sector of this industry, that's going to possibly win the day going forward."

"While the bill's consideration represents progress, it's a drop in the ocean given what we need to do to end federal prohibition and repair the harms of the drug war," he said, adding that the restrictive provisions are "egregious, unnecessary and representative of an outdated approach to public policy."

Gaetz, for his part, doesn't necessarily disagree.

"I would go a lot further," he said. "If I was king for a day, marijuana doctrine would look different than this bill."

But the concessions were necessary to get fellow GOP lawmakers on board, he argued. "For many of my Republican colleagues, the most difficult marijuana reform vote to take is the first one. I'm trying to create the most comfortable setting for marijuana skeptics to do something right by their constituents, and that process can yield imperfect legislation that is directionally correct."

To that end, key to the bill's advancement was surprising support from Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), who has historically opposed marijuana reform but became an original cosponsor of Gaetz's proposal.

Collins, of the Drug Policy Alliance, argued that removing the restrictions wouldn't impede the bill's chances of passing.

"The provisions are overly cautious and unnecessary given what the committee has voted on in the past," he said, referring to broader criminal justice reform legislation aimed at giving people second chances after serving prison terms.

"We would like to get behind this bill, but with these provisions it's going to be very difficult," he said, adding that he thinks the bans might actually make the legislation less likely to pass because criminal justice reform advocates who

otherwise wouldn't care about a marijuana research bill are now concerned about it.

Meanwhile, it is likely that the committee will have to grapple with at least one amendment to strip the language on Thursday.

"If they keep this in I think they're going to lose support," Collins said.

After this story was first published, Gaetz tweeted that concerned advocates "make fair points," but that it would be "a shame if disagreement on such a small thing" prevented the reform legislation from passing.



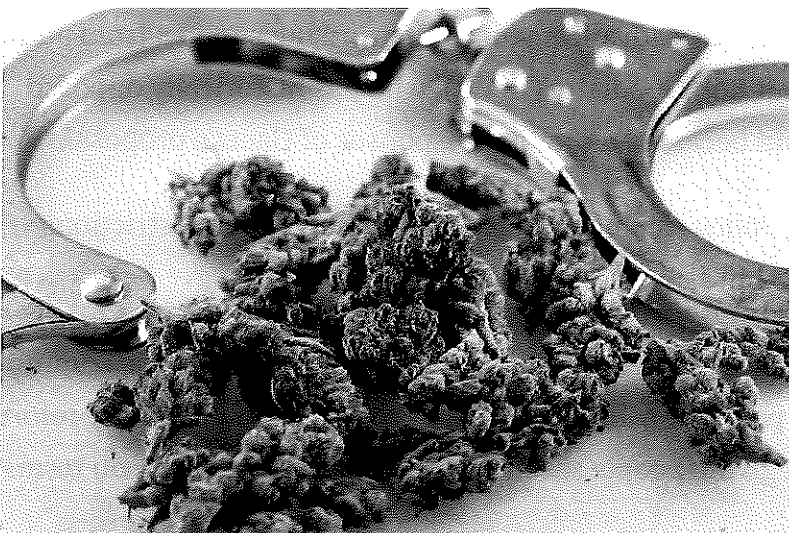
Matt Gaetz
@mattgaetz

This isn't important 2 me. Both sides make fair points. But what a shame if disagreement on such a small thing kept us from making University/Hospital/Hospice/VA/MedSchool #MedicalMarijuana research collaboration legal with the vibrant, innovative commercial cannabis industry.

Tom Angell 🇺🇸 @tomangell

Replying to @tomangell

Legalization advocates are concerned provisions in this @mattgaetz bill to bar people with drug convictions from legally growing marijuana for research, but he told me in an interview it was a necessary compromise to get GOP votes this week.[forbes.com/sites/tomangel...](https://www.forbes.com/sites/tomangel/)



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Other advocates raised separate concerns about the bill's implementation, even if it is enacted.

“The Medical Cannabis Research Act would, in theory, dramatically expand access to medical grade cannabis for researchers for scientific purposes,” said NORML Political Director Justin Strekal. “While the bill is imperfect as it would rely on known prohibitionist Attorney General Jeff Sessions to oversee an overly restrictive permitting process, its passage would be a step in the right direction to lay the foundation for future research into marijuana’s most beneficial properties.”

In the closing months of the Obama administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) moved to create a process to license additional cannabis cultivators, which resulted in applications from more than two dozen entities. But the Trump administration's Department of Justice has since blocked DEA from acting on the proposals.

Lawmakers have sent a series of letters to Sessions about the blockade.

Sessions said at a Senate hearing last year that adding additional cannabis cultivators would be "healthy." And at a separate hearing this spring, the attorney general testified that action on the applications would be taken "soon." But nothing has yet been announced.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that a review by the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel concluded that the plan to license more growers violated United Nations drug treaties. But the State Department under the Obama administration said in 2016 that allowing additional cultivators would not go against the international agreements.

The Gaetz bill would take the decision out of the Justice Department's hands by issuing a directive from Congress to grant more licenses on a specific timetable.

Separately from the cultivation licenses, the legislation would also clarify that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) doctors are allowed to discuss the medical use of cannabis with their military veteran patients and can refer them to participate in scientific studies on marijuana. It would not, however, overturn an

internal VA ban prohibiting its physicians from issuing recommendations for veterans to receive medical cannabis in accordance with state laws.

In May, the House Veterans Affairs Committee became the first congressional committee to ever approve a standalone marijuana reform bill when it passed legislation encouraging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct research on the medical benefits of cannabis.

That bill has not yet been scheduled for House floor action.

Last month, the DEA moved to dramatically expand the amount of marijuana than can be legally grown in the U.S. for research purposes next year, perhaps anticipating the licensing of additional cultivators.

Meanwhile, Gaetz, who is a close ally of the White House, wasn't willing in the phone interview to reveal much about cannabis conversations he has had with President Trump.

But he did say that he thinks Trump was serious when he said on the 2016 campaign trail that he supports medical cannabis. And, he blamed the lack of progress in federal marijuana reform since the president took office on his broader feud with Sessions.

"I believe that we'd be making a lot more progress in the marijuana reform movement if there weren't such chilled relations between the White House and the Department of Justice," Gaetz said. "In a way, the marijuana reform movement is an inadvertent casualty of the Trump-Sessions eroded relationship."

I'm a 15-year veteran of the cannabis law reform movement, and I know where to look to spot the most interesting legalization developments. I'm the editor of the cannabis news site Marijuana Moment, and I founded the nonprofit Marijuana Majority. Follow me on Twitter to s... MORE

Tom Angell publishes Marijuana Moment news and founded the nonprofit Marijuana Majority. Follow Tom on Twitter for breaking news and subscribe to his daily newsletter.

<https://www.ojaienergetics.com/index.php>

Hemp Cleans Soil and Air, but Beware...

Certain plants and other organisms have been known to clean up toxic soil and groundwater. This is known as bioremediation and is an affordable and ecological method of remediation compared to chemical and mechanical processes.

When discussing how hemp and other plants clean toxins from the earth, it's called phytoremediation.

Phytoremediation is the intentional use of plants for removal of contaminants in soils, sludges, sediments, surface water and groundwater.

Yes, hemp can heal the soil and water, along with having some profound healing effects on our body. Considering hemp also make ideal fiber(better than cotton) and oil(perfect balance of Omegas), one might ask, "What can't hemp do?"

Well, certainly hemp can't be illegal anymore, and we are blessed with a changing in policies worldwide, making hemp again mankind's most trusted ally from the plant kingdom.

Hemp is an ideal choice for phytoremediation because it is fast growing, has deep roots and is unaffected by the toxins it accumulates from the soil and air.



Cadmium, one of the major pollutants in soil, has been shown to be eliminated by simply growing hemp.

In fact, certain types of hemp have been studied (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12010-011-9382-0#/page-2>) and recommended for phytoremediation of cadmium, a heavy metal we need to remove.

With thousands of contaminated sites in the US alone, hemp can prove an efficient and eco-friendly way to clean up our mess industrial mess.

And, while hemp is cleaning the soil, it can act as a carbon sink, to reduce greenhouse gases.

Once the phytoremediation hemp is grown, it should not be used for food or medicine, but can safely be converted into fuel.

You don't want the toxins that the plant just soaked out of the ground...which is a distinct possibility if you consume hemp products.

This is especially applicable when hemp is concentrated into oil or products like CBD. The CBD concentrate can have more toxins than the plant.

So, the hemp you use for medicine and food needs to be grown on organically certified farms, and better yet tested for toxins and other contaminants.

The hemp or cannabis-based medicine you consume should be free of mold, pesticides, and heavy metals. That is critical, especially if you have an acute illness.

[Lab Tests Like this \(https://www.ojaienergetics.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Lab_Results_CBD_Oil.pdf\)](https://www.ojaienergetics.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Lab_Results_CBD_Oil.pdf) were done on Ojai Energetics CBD, which was grown in clean soil without the use of pesticides and chemicals.

Due to cannabis hemp's phytoremediation abilities, any cannabis product you consume should be tested.

Fortunately state legislation is moving toward mandatory testing, however, it is something that is currently left up to companies and consumers. Ojai Energetics is one of the few cannabis companies that chooses to provide clean medicine, grown on clean land.

[Get Clean and Lab Tested Hemp CBD Here >>](#)

[\(https://www.ojaienergetics.net/product/super-cbd/\)](https://www.ojaienergetics.net/product/super-cbd/)

[*Colorado Hemp Phytoremediation Study](#)

<http://rydberg.biology.colostate.edu/phytoremediation/2012/Phytore20with%20hemp%20by%20Laura%20Cascardi.pdf>

by Jason Jelonek


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Ojai Energetics Corporate Responsibility

We exist to be a catalyst for good. With our non-negotiable, triple bottom line policy of putting people and planet before profits while being fiscally successful we are being the change we want to see in the world. We strive to run our company with these values, exemplified by running our servers with wind energy, and ensuring access to health products for those who cannot afford them. We work to build relationships with the farmers who grow the ingredients we use, ensuring fair trade wages, and only supporting regenerative farming practices. We will always ensure from seed to planting to the final products in your hands that we have made the world a better place without cutting corners. We are always working to improve the standards for all the communities we touch. By honoring and valuing people, the environment, and all other members of Life (while still being a successful business) we are a living example that success does not need to be at the expense of others well being. We love life, and we love you.

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