

Statements of Support from Idaho Physicians

What follows is a statement in favor of legislation that makes an exception in current law that forbids possession of any byproduct of marijuana besides the so-called, 'industrial hemp.' There are now preparations available with high concentrations of cannabidiol (CBD) and very low concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). These preparations have essentially zero potential for abuse or dependence, and their only known use is in the treatment of severe and intractable epilepsy. While large-scale research studies have not yet been performed, CBD oil has shown promising results in individual cases thus far. The people obtaining CBD oil are parents of children with terrible and incurable epilepsy, and their goal is only to help their child in any way that they can. The National Epilepsy Foundation, not to mention numerous child neurologists and epilepsy specialists, support legislation allowing the use of CBD oil given its lack of any significant risk or harm, and the strong potential for treating a devastating illness. I strongly support efforts to perform rigorous clinical trials in this arena, and also strongly support efforts to make CBD oil available to individual families while we await the results of this research.

Edward Jernigan, MD
Board Certified Child Neurologist
Staff Physician, St Luke's Regional Medical Center, Boise, ID

There is an emerging body of literature and experience on the use of CBD in successfully treating certain forms of epilepsy in children. Although this substance is derived from a cannabis plant, it does not have other properties of recreational marijuana (specifically inducing euphoria or getting "high"). Therefore, it is not open to problems of drug abuse or illicit sales. In my opinion, it should be classified as a "nutriceutical" rather than coming under the category of medical marijuana laws.

David B. Bettis, MD
Board Certified Child Neurologist
Staff Physician, St Luke's Regional Medical Center, Boise, ID

CBD is currently illegal in the state of Idaho. Although derived from a cannabis plant, it is my understanding that the substance has only negligible quantities of THC and therefore has no significant potential for recreational use or abuse. I believe it is in the best interest of the state to make CBD legal for appropriate medical treatments.

George Booth, MD
Treasure Valley Pediatrics, St Luke's Children's

I am a board-certified neurologist who has practiced in Boise for 17 years. I am in support of the bill to exclude high Cannabidiol (CBD) from the current definition of Marijuana. CBD oil is defined as having less than .3% THC.

I believe CBD oil needs to be available for refractory epilepsy patients that have failed traditional therapy. It has essentially no potential for abuse and has minimal side effects.

James M. Herrold, MD
Les Bois Neurology

Intractable epilepsy, that has failed multiple combinations of medications as well as surgical interventions such as placement of a Vagal Nerve Stimulator, may respond to cannabidiol (CBD). Unfortunately, many states have not changed their laws to accommodate the medicinal use of this substance. In states that have legalized marijuana, there has been significant knowledge gained as to the varying effects of all the specific compounds in different marijuana strains. CBD predominant (low THC) strains have shown promise treating intractable seizure disorders with little psychoactive effects. I feel that the state of Idaho needs to provide the legal means to allow the use of CBD for forms of epilepsy that have failed traditional treatment.

Clay Campbell, MD
Board Certified Family Physician
Montpelier, Idaho