

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 730

By Powell

A RESOLUTION relative to the legalization and regulation of medical cannabis by the states.

WHEREAS, the battle over legal medical cannabis represents a monumental moment for states' rights; and

WHEREAS, the use of cannabis for medical purposes has been legalized in twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia, while seventeen states have more restrictive laws; Tennessee permits the use of cannabidiol oil in the treatment of intractable seizures or epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, the medicinal use of cannabis is a concept that spans tens of thousands of years and many cultures, both ancient and modern; ninety-four percent (94%) of Americans supported the legal, medical use of cannabis in a recent Quinnipiac poll; and

WHEREAS, medical research indicates that cannabis can alleviate chronic pain and muscle spasms, reduce nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy patients, and improve appetite in HIV/AIDS patients; and

WHEREAS, cannabis is also recommended for anorexia, arthritis, migraines, and glaucoma when traditional treatments are ineffective; and

WHEREAS, initially enacted as part of a Congressional omnibus spending bill in 2014, the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer Amendment prohibits the U.S. Department of Justice from utilizing funds to interfere with the implementation of state medical cannabis laws; and

WHEREAS, while the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer Amendment provides a safe harbor for states that have approved medical cannabis, it does not change the legal status of cannabis as a Schedule I drug under federal law and must be renewed each year to remain in effect, and is thus a stop-gap measure at best; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the several states should retain primacy in determining the legalization and regulation of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products within their respective jurisdictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge and encourage the United States Congress to enact a statute prohibiting the federal government from interfering with the implementation of states' medical cannabis laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.