

VFW Applauds Presidential Action Rescheduling Hemp-Derived Products for Treatments

Executive Order increases medical marijuana and cannabidiol research

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WASHINGTON - The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) applauds President Donald J. Trump for signing an Executive Order rescheduling marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III, a decisive step recognizing legitimate medical uses and expanding research into medical marijuana and cannabidiol (CBD) to better support patients and doctors.

"This is a meaningful, veteran-centered action that puts science ahead of stigma," said VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore. "For too long, outdated policies have limited research into treatments that could help veterans manage pain, PTSD and other service-connected conditions. Today's decision acknowledges what veterans and their doctors have been saying for years: we need evidence-based options and the freedom to study them."

VFW Adjutant General Dan West added, "Rescheduling opens the door to rigorous medical research, clearer guidance for clinicians and safer pathways for veterans seeking relief. This action reinforces the importance of smart regulation that protects patients while allowing science to do its job."

On November 12, 2025, the VFW sent Congress a letter urging continued support for solid scientific research into hemp-derived cannabinoids. Signed by Whitmore and West, the letter underscored the urgent need for alternatives, noting that, "Every day, doctors hand out strong sedatives and psychoactive meds to help veterans cope. They work for some, but too many end up hooked, numb or dealing with brutal side effects. We've all watched good men and women get trapped in a cycle of pills that dull the pain but don't fix the problem."

The letter emphasized that early research into certain hemp compounds shows promise for symptom management and pain reduction with lower addiction risks - while cautioning

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against sweeping bans that would halt research, harm veteran-owned small businesses, and push veterans toward unsafe black-market products. "We're not pushing for wild, unregulated products or recreational use," the letter stated. "We're asking for smart policy: protect the public, but don't kill the research."

The VFW also commends and celebrates the advocacy and partnership of Tim Jensen, founder of the Grunt Style Foundation and a VFW Life member, who represented both the VFW and Grunt Style at the signing.

"Tim's leadership and tireless advocacy helped ensure veterans' voices were heard at the highest levels," said West. "We're grateful for his commitment to advancing responsible, research-driven policy."

Together with the Grunt Style Foundation, the VFW has made advocating for alternative, research-grounded medical treatments a priority on Capitol Hill. President Trump's signing of this Executive Order highlights the progress that can be made when the veteran community rallies around meaningful policy changes.

"The VFW will continue working with the Administration, Congress and partners to ensure balanced policies that promote research, protect consumers and give veterans every legitimate tool available to reclaim their health and quality of life," Whitmore concluded.