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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

October 15, 2014

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Governor
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Haslam:

In May of this year, you took an important step towards improving the lives of individuals with serious medical conditions, particularly children, when you signed legislation allowing for clinical research into cannabidiol (CBD), a low-THC form of cannabis. However, as you know, federal restrictions have prevented the law from taking effect and from alleviating the suffering of patients in need. I urge you to request a waiver from federal authorities to allow for the import of CBD into Tennessee until this situation is resolved.

I recently had the privilege of meeting 3-year-old Chloe Grauer and her family in Memphis. Chloe suffers from a rare neurological disease that causes her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She's tried dozens of medications and undergone surgical procedures but nothing has stopped the seizures. CBD has the potential to ease her suffering but she's being denied this medical treatment because it's derived from marijuana plants and is therefore illegal under federal law, even though it contains just trace amounts of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana – nowhere near enough to produce a high.

Thanks to CBD, 5-year-old Charlotte Figi, who suffers from a condition similar to Chloe, is nearly seizure-free. CBD is so successful, in fact, that the medication she takes was renamed Charlotte's Web, in her honor. Charlotte can access this life-saving treatment because she lives in Colorado, where marijuana is legal for medical and personal use. But this important medication is not permitted to be shipped across state lines and cannot benefit Chloe.

Recently, Governor Andrew Cuomo requested that the Department of Justice issue a waiver to permit CBD to be imported into New York until that state is able to fully implement its new medical marijuana law. I urge you to follow his lead and to work with federal officials on a

solution that will allow Tennessee's CBD law to be implemented and to allow the importation of CBD into Tennessee until this situation is resolved. I will be writing to Attorney General Eric Holder with this request as well and I am actively supporting legislation in Congress, the Charlotte's Web Medical Hemp Act, to make CBD legal under federal law. In the meantime, I hope you will do all you can to ensure that our constituents like Chloe have access to this potentially life-saving treatment. I stand ready to assist you in any way that I can. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is stylized with a large "S" and a cursive "Cohen".

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress