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# Congress of the United States

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COOPERATION IN EUROPE  
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

October 15, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder Jr.  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

Under your leadership, the Department of Justice has issued important policy guidelines protecting individuals and businesses from prosecution if they are in compliance with the laws and regulations of their states concerning marijuana. As you may know, the State of Tennessee has enacted legislation allowing for clinical research into cannabidiol (CBD), a low-THC form of cannabis that has proven to improve the lives of individuals experiencing seizures, particularly children. However, federal restrictions have prevented this law from taking effect and from alleviating the suffering of patients in need. I urge you to direct the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to work with Tennessee on a solution to this issue and to permit the importation of CBD until this process 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.

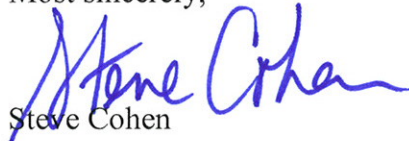
Thanks to CBD, 5-year-old Charlotte Figi, who suffers from a condition similar to Chloe, is nearly seizure-free. CBD is so successful, in fact, that the medication she takes was renamed Charlotte's Web, in her honor. Charlotte can access this life-saving treatment because she lives in Colorado, where 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. It is

mystifying that, according to a recent *New York Times* report, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection allows hemp products with less than .3% THC to be shipped into the United States but the DEA will not allow CBD to be shipped domestically even though it is under this threshold. We have to seriously reconsider a policy that deprives patients, especially young children, suffering from serious medical conditions the right to live a healthy and productive life.

The Obama Administration has taken important steps in recent years to respect the decision of states that have chosen to make marijuana legal for medical purposes. I ask that you direct the DEA to assist Tennessee in implementing its new CBD law. In the meantime, I urge you to permit the importation of CBD into Tennessee and ensure that my constituents like Chloe have access to this potentially life-saving treatment. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen

Member of Congress