

Statement - United Nations Commission Narcotic Drugs

Agenda item #5(a) Cannabis Scheduling

Thank you mister Chair, esteemed Members of the Commission,

My name is Michael Krawitz and I am a disabled United States Air Force Veteran and voluntarily serve as Executive Director of Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access.

The community of military veterans in the United States has found Cannabis to be an invaluable medication that has helped us reduce our pill count from the mainstream hospitals system. Cannabis as an adjunct pain medicine has been proven to be an effective especially effective as an adjunct palliative treatment.

As a medical patient myself, I know firsthand how well Cannabis works. Our current medicinal access laws are the product of decades of efforts at the state and national level and provide over 1/2 of our population medicinal access to a variety of useful and effective Cannabis medications.

Patients in my country, the USA, have waited long enough. But patients in most of the world have suffered for a very long time. In 35 of the 53 voting members of the Commission the medical use of Cannabis is a traditional practice that is culturally accepted and documented by science and History.

The treaty is often the sole reason cited to justify such strict control and lack of availability of Cannabis for medical use.

59 years after Cannabis was scheduled in the absence of scientific evidence, the WHO spent many years studying Cannabis medicinal use before releasing recommendations and another year as the WHO has engaged the CND process. Although we understand the need for Member States to properly assess and understand the recommendations of the CND process, I ask you, dear delegates serving on this Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fulfil the mandate of the international drug control system to ensure access to medicines, medicines capable of relieving human suffering.

We have waited long enough.

Thank you,

Take care of yourself, and Ensure access for all.