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November 27, 2013

Re: Rare seizure disorders and cannabidiol (CBD)

To whom it may concern:

I know of two children who have rare, severe seizure disorders. Conventional therapies have not controlled the seizures. The suffering of the children and their families is enormous.

Happily, animal research and human trials have shown that an extract, cannabidiol (CBD), from a hybrid cannabis plant, has shown substantial promise to at least partially control these severe seizure disorders, and sometimes remarkable control is achieved.

Briefly, CBD is extracted from a hybrid cannabis plant (popularly known as marijuana), and it lacks the mood altering or elevating effects of another chemical extracted from marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The chemical CBD is already available, known as Alepsia, and to my knowledge great care has been taken to assure quality control. CBD could readily be made available to the parents via physicians caring for the parents. Legally, I am sure that via a variant of the orphan drug program of the FDA, communication and emphasis of details to the DEA of the non-addictive nature of CBD, with associated necessary focused state legislation, drug availability could occur rapidly. Use and control of this would be totally unlike the myriad issues recently described in an article re Washington State in *The New Yorker*, after their passing recent legislation allowing limited marijuana use.

My primary concern is that those involved in decision making about the extract CBD, will equate CBD with THC, or the whole smorgasbord of chemicals inherent in the whole marijuana plant; therefore, there will be unnecessary concern and delay, and unnecessary continued suffering.

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South Jordan Health Center

The organization HOPE 4 CHILDREN with epilepsy is doing, in my opinion, a remarkable act of love in providing detailed, yet understandable, information about the details and urgency of what I have tried to convey. I join with them in asking for prompt approval of CBD, thereby avoiding the technically illegal acquisition of CBD by parents in their desperate attempts to alleviate their children's suffering.

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Sincerely,

John Bezzant, M.D.

Adjunct Clinical Professor