AS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE

January 24, 2019

**S. 169**

Introduced by Senator Hembree

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Read the first time January 8, 2019.

**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO URGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE USE OF CANNABIS TO TREAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND ILLNESSES.

Whereas, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently approved Epidiolex oral solution for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare and severe forms of epilepsy, Lennox‑Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome in patients two years of age and older; and

Whereas, the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s approval of Epidiolex serves as a reminder that advancing development programs that properly evaluate active ingredients contained in marijuana can lead to important medical therapies, and controlled clinical trials testing the safety and efficacy of a drug along with careful review through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s drug approval process is the most appropriate way to bring treatments to patients; and

Whereas, citizens across the country are using cannabis to treat a variety of medical conditions and illnesses, and cannabis is becoming increasingly accessible, despite the dearth of scientific research that exists on its efficacy overall and its efficacy as impacted by dosage amounts, drug interactions, drug composition, and drug side effects; and

Whereas, federal statutory and regulatory barriers have prevented thorough research on the use of cannabis to treat medical conditions and illnesses, and these barriers have undermined the ability of states to obtain clear, well‑researched scientific evidence relevant to use of cannabis for medical purposes; and

Whereas, the federal government has a duty to protect its citizens by promoting research on the medicinal value, if any, of cannabis to treat a variety of medical conditions and illnesses; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the health and well‑being of all people and to propose statutory and regulatory actions to accomplish that end. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina hereby urges the United States Attorney General and Congress to take immediate and additional steps to promote and actively pursue scientific research and testing into the potential use of cannabis to treat other medical conditions and illnesses by removing the federal statutory and regulatory barriers that prevent these scientific endeavors.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the United States Attorney General, the President and President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and that copies of this resolution also be transmitted to the members of the United States Congress from this State.

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