

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 712
OFFERED BY Mr. Roe

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. CONDUCT OF RESEARCH INTO EFFECTS OF**
2 **CANNABIS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CER-**
3 **TAIN VETERANS.**

4 (a) RESEARCH.—In carrying out the responsibilities
5 of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 7303
6 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary shall con-
7 duct and support research relating to the efficacy and
8 safety of forms of cannabis described in subsection (c) on
9 the health outcomes of covered veterans diagnosed with
10 chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other
11 conditions the Secretary determines appropriate. The Sec-
12 retary shall ensure that such research is conducted in ac-
13 cordance with applicable regulations relating to the over-
14 sight of research, including such regulations prescribed by
15 the Office of Research and Development of the Depart-
16 ment of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and
17 Human Services (including through the National Institute
18 on Drug Abuse), the Food and Drug Administration, the

1 Drug Enforcement Administration, and the National In-
2 stitutes of Health.

3 (b) DATA PRESERVATION.—Research conducted pur-
4 suant to subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to en-
5 sure the preservation of all data, including all data sets,
6 collected or used for purposes of the research required by
7 subsection (a) in a manner that will facilitate further re-
8 search.

9 (c) FORMS OF CANNABIS TO BE RESEARCHED.—The
10 forms of cannabis described in this subsection are—

11 (1) varying forms of cannabis, including—

12 (A) full plants and extracts;

13 (B) at least three different strains of can-
14 nabis with significant variants in phenotypic
15 traits and various ratios of
16 tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol in chem-
17 ical composition; and

18 (C) other chemical analogs of
19 tetrahydrocannabinol; and

20 (2) varying methods of cannabis delivery, in-
21 cluding topical application, combustible and non-
22 combustible inhalation, and ingestion.

23 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In conducting and sup-
24 porting research under subsection (a), the Secretary
25 shall—

1 (1) before conducting and supporting such re-
2 search, develop a plan to implement this section and
3 submit such plan to the Committees on Veterans'
4 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
5 ate; and

6 (2) issue any requests for proposals the Sec-
7 retary determines appropriate for such implementa-
8 tion.

9 (e) EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS.—

10 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—The eligibility or entitlement
11 of a covered veteran to any other benefit under the
12 laws administered by the Secretary or any other pro-
13 vision of law shall not be affected by the participa-
14 tion of the covered veteran in a clinical trial or study
15 conducted pursuant to research described in sub-
16 section (a).

17 (2) DENIAL OF BENEFITS.—Notwithstanding
18 any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs may not deny a covered veteran any benefit
20 under the laws administered by the Secretary by
21 reason of the covered veteran participating in a clin-
22 ical trial or study conducted pursuant to research
23 described in subsection (a).

24 (f) REPORTS.—During the five-year period beginning
25 on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall submit periodically, but not less frequently than an-
2 nually, to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
3 House of Representatives and the Senate reports on the
4 implementation of this section.

5 (g) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
6 the term “covered veteran” means a veteran who is en-
7 rolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department
8 of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United
9 States Code.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct and support re-
search on the efficacy and safety of medicinal cannabis,
and for other purposes.”.

