

House Resolution 1363

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Peake of the 141st, Jones of the 91st, Silcox of the 52nd, and Meadows of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to amend the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 so as to
2 reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug so that its medical benefits and effects may be
3 researched or, if Congress is unwilling to reclassify marijuana, to enact the Marijuana
4 Effective Drug Study Act (MEDS Act); and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, over half of the states and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of
6 marijuana; and

7 WHEREAS, more than ten states have enacted measures that allow patients suffering from
8 intractable epilepsy to use strains of marijuana that have low concentrations of THC; and

9 WHEREAS, the possibility of federal intervention has impeded the passage of proposed state
10 legislation and the implementation of enacted legislation to allow the use of low THC strains
11 of marijuana for children suffering from intractable epilepsy; this failure to act has created
12 a difficult situation for law-abiding Georgia citizens and their families who have the need to
13 treat themselves and their children with debilitating illnesses; and

14 WHEREAS, the potential medicinal value of marijuana has received insufficient study,
15 owing to a lack of financial incentives for the undertaking of appropriate research by private
16 drug manufacturing concerns; and

17 WHEREAS, in enabling individual physicians and their patients to participate in studies
18 conducted through qualified research universities for the investigational use of marijuana and
19 its derivatives, qualified physicians and surgeons will be able to study the benefits of the drug
20 in a controlled clinical setting, and additional knowledge will be gained with respect to
21 dosage and effects; and

22 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the facilitation of clinical research and the
23 development of cannabinoid-based medicines; and

24 WHEREAS, Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) are cosponsoring the
25 Marijuana Effective Drug Study Act (MEDS Act), introduced in September, 2017; and

26 WHEREAS, the MEDS Act would take steps to remove barriers impeding research into the
27 benefits of medical marijuana and, according to Hatch, "encourage more research on medical
28 marijuana by streamlining the research registration process" without forcing the Drug
29 Enforcement Administration to reschedule marijuana; and

30 WHEREAS, it would "make marijuana more available for legitimate scientific and medical
31 research," Hatch further stated, and "protect against diversion or abuse of the controlled
32 marijuana substances."

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Controlled
35 Substances Act of 1970 so as to reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug so that its medical
36 benefits and effects may be further researched or, if Congress is unwilling to reclassify
37 marijuana, to enact the Marijuana Effective Drug Study Act (MEDS Act).

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 members of the Georgia congressional delegation.