



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2022-338
June 14, 2022

Across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, our citizens suffer from a multitude of medical conditions from which they deserve some relief;

Medical cannabis is a term for derivatives of the *Cannabis sativa* plant that are used to ease symptoms caused by certain medical conditions. *Cannabis sativa* contains many active compounds. The best known are delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). Medical cannabis comes in a variety of forms, including pill, liquid, oil, powder, and dried leaves;

As of the date of this order, a total of 38 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands allow cannabis for medical use by qualified individuals. In May 2021, Alabama legalized medical cannabis. This year, Mississippi and Rhode Island did the same;

States have legalized medical cannabis for treatment of such medical conditions as: cancer; ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease; epilepsy and seizures; Parkinson's disease; Crohn's disease; multiple sclerosis; sickle cell anemia; severe and chronic pain; post-traumatic stress disorder; cachexia or wasting syndrome; peripheral neuropathy; severe arthritis; hepatitis C; fibromyalgia; intractable pain; and muscular dystrophy;

In Kentucky, even low amounts of cannabis possession, cultivation and distribution is criminalized. Past efforts to pass legislation legalizing medical cannabis have failed in the General Assembly, including during the 2020 Regular Session and the 2022 Regular Session when bills passed the House of Representatives in bipartisan fashion, but did not reach debate in the Senate;

Allowing Kentuckians diagnosed with certain medical conditions and receiving palliative care to cultivate, purchase, possess and/or use medical cannabis would improve the quality of their lives and may help reduce abuse of other more dangerous and addictive medications, such as opiates. It would also improve Kentucky's economy by bringing new jobs and businesses to the Commonwealth, as well as supporting Kentucky farmers;

In the absence of legislation legalizing medical cannabis, I am committed to reviewing what executive action could provide relief to Kentuckians and allow those suffering from chronic pain and other medical conditions to use medical cannabis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 12.029, do hereby Declare, Order and Direct the following:

- I. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee is hereby created and attached to the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes.
- II. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Governor and composed of the following seventeen (17) members that have relevant experience in health care, treatment of opioid use disorder and other diseases of addiction, law enforcement, criminal justice, and advocacy for medical cannabis:



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- a. Kerry Harvey, Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, who shall serve as Co-Chair;
 - b. Ray Perry, Secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet, who shall serve as Co-Chair;
 - c. Brian Jointer, Certified Public Health Worker;
 - d. Dr. Nick Kouns, Internal Medicine, Clark Regional Medical Center;
 - e. Dr. Linda McClain, OB/GYN, Commonwealth Counseling Center;
 - f. Dr. John Farmer, OB/GYN, Medical Director of Solid Ground Counseling and Recovery, Addiction treatment provider in Louisville, Morehead, and Hazard;
 - g. Dr. Jonathan Hatton, Family Medicine, Mountain Comprehensive Health;
 - h. Dr. Amber Cann, The Pharmacy Coach and Adjunct Professor at Spalding University;
 - i. Alex Kreit, Director of the Chase Center on Addiction Law and Policy at Northern Kentucky University;
 - j. Jennifer Cave, Member, Stites and Harbison;
 - k. Andrew Sparks, former Assistant U.S. Attorney;
 - l. Julie Wallace, Union County Attorney;
 - m. Cookie Crews, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections;
 - n. Dee Dee Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of the 502 Hemp Wellness Center;
 - o. Eric Crawford, Advocate;
 - p. Kristin Wilcox, Co-Founder of the Kentucky Moms for Medical Cannabis; and
 - q. Julie Cantwell, Advocate with Kentuckians for Medical Marijuana.
- III. The members of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. In the event of a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term, the governor shall appoint a member for the remainder of the unexpired term.



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- IV. The members of the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- V. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee shall travel the various regions of the Commonwealth and hold public hearings with members of the public.
- VI. The Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee shall provide feedback from its public hearings to the Governor.

This order shall be effective June 14, 2022.



ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State