



November 12, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building 511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer:

We are writing on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and its Auxiliary—nearly 1.4 million veterans and their families strong—to ask you to keep supporting solid scientific research into hemp-derived cannabinoids. These could offer a real alternative to the heavy prescription drugs so many of our veterans are given for PTSD, anxiety, pain, and sleep problems.

Every day, doctors hand out strong sedatives and psychoactive meds to help veterans cope. They work for some, but too many end up hooked, numb, or dealing with brutal side effects. We've all watched good men and women get trapped in a cycle of pills that dull the pain but don't fix the problem.

It's time to look harder at safer options. Early research on certain hemp compounds shows promise for managing symptoms and reducing physical pain without the same addiction risks. A few examples:

1. A year-long study in the Journal of Affective Disorders showed cannabis users were more than twice as likely to no longer meet PTSD criteria as non-users.
2. A 2021 review in Frontiers in Psychiatry found PTSD symptoms dropped in several real-world studies, though it called for tighter clinical trials.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

3. A 2022 paper in Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research reported that adults using hemp-derived Delta-8 THC often cut back or stopped prescription pain and anxiety meds altogether.

This isn't proof of a miracle cure—just clear signs we should keep studying.

But sweeping moves to "close the hemp loophole" could slam that door shut. A blanket ban on hemp cannabinoids would make it nearly impossible for researchers and VA hospitals to study these compounds legally. It would also hurt veteran-owned small businesses already playing by the rules. Critically, it would drive veterans looking for relief straight to black-market junk—making things riskier, not safer.

We're not pushing for wild, unregulated products or recreational use. We're asking for smart policy: protect the public, but don't kill the research. Let science do its job, regulate what's proven safe, and give veterans every legitimate tool available to get their lives back.

Our veterans have earned the best care we can give them. We urge Congress to take a balanced approach—one that protects consumers, promotes research, and gives veterans hope for safer alternatives.

Respectfully,



Carol Whitmore
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.



Dan West
Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.