



INDIANA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

302 W. Washington Street, Room E-205
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2767
www.in.gov/ipac

Phone: (317) 232-1836

Fax: (317) 233-3599

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutors Advocate for Science, Research on Medicinal Hemp Oil

INDIANAPOLIS (September 23, 2015) – Indiana Prosecutors today advocated for a solution to use pharmaceutical companies' expanded access programs to give children who suffer from an uncontrollable form of epilepsy access to investigational drugs, including those containing cannabidiol. They also advocated for funding for "expanded access" and research into severe childhood epilepsy.

Dearborn/Ohio County Prosecutor Aaron Negangard told the Legislature's Interim Study Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources that research presently being conducted must be completed to determine whether hemp oil, known as CBD, is a safe, effective treatment for seizures. He advocated for an approach similar to that of Idaho that provides "compassionate use" of cannabidoil for treatment of epilepsy while promoting FDA-approved clinical trials that should definitively establish treatment usages, specific dosages, side effects and compatible drugs. The committee also heard from Dr. Robert Wechsler, a neurologist from Idaho, who explained how he started the "expanded access" program of investigational drugs for epilepsy in Idaho.

"Blanket approval of medical marijuana will send the message that marijuana is safe," Negangard said. "That is wrong legislation, as well intentioned as it is. We must use science and research to justify our decisions," he said. "If we want to approve medical hemp oil, then Indiana should finance a research program to learn whether CBD is a safe, effective treatment."

Daniel Miller, drug resource prosecutor of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, said that nutritional supplements labeled as CBD are unregulated and their reliability is suspect. Also described as "artisanal" CBD oil, it is likely these products are contaminated by pesticides or other foreign substances, will contain THC (the ingredient that produces the "high" in marijuana) and may not contain any CBD at all.

- End -

Media contact: *Connie Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 317-233-3923, cosmith1@ipac.in.gov*

About the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council: *The IPAC is a non-partisan, independent state judicial branch agency that supports Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys and their chief deputies. It is governed by a 10-member board of directors of elected prosecuting attorneys. The IPAC assists prosecuting attorneys in the preparation of manuals, legal research and training seminars. It serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, study commissions, and community groups in an effort to support law enforcement and promote the fair administration of justice.*