

House Concurrent Resolution 104 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY WESSEL-KROESCHELL, LENSING, STAED, OLSON, STECKMAN,
KRESSIG, MEYER, JACOBY, McCONKEY, WINCKLER, HUNTER,
ANDERSON, RUNNING-MARQUARDT, R. SMITH, ABDUL-SAMAD,
FORBES, BENNETT, BROWN-POWERS, ISENHART, H. MILLER,
and KURTH

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging Congress and the
2 President of the United States to reclassify
3 cannabis as a schedule II controlled substance under
4 the United States Controlled Substances Act.

5 WHEREAS, while Iowa and 28 other states and the
6 District of Columbia have enacted laws allowing
7 the regulated use of medical cannabis for numerous
8 debilitating medical conditions, including but not
9 limited to cancer; multiple sclerosis; seizures,
10 including those characteristic of epilepsy; AIDS or
11 HIV; Crohn's Disease; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;
12 and Parkinson's Disease, cannabis use remains illegal
13 under the United States Controlled Substances Act; and

14 WHEREAS, cannabis is currently classified by
15 the federal Drug Enforcement Agency as a schedule I
16 controlled substance under the United States Controlled
17 Substances Act, a classification that impedes
18 large-scale medical and scientific research on the
19 effects of cannabis; and

20 WHEREAS, a schedule I controlled substance is
21 a highly addictive substance that has no accepted
22 medical use in the United States, such as heroin, and a
23 schedule II controlled substance is a highly addictive
24 substance that has an accepted medical use in the

1 United States, such as fentanyl; and

2 WHEREAS, substances classified as a schedule
3 II controlled substance may be dispensed with a
4 prescription under certain circumstances and are
5 subject to large-scale research, testing, and
6 manufacturing; and

7 WHEREAS, there is a significant lack of medical and
8 scientific research on medical cannabis by industries,
9 universities, research institutions, and federal
10 agencies, including but not limited to the Food and
11 Drug Administration in the United States due in part to
12 the fact that cannabis is classified as a schedule I
13 controlled substance; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General's
15 reports on the health consequences of tobacco use in
16 the United States over a 50-year period are based on
17 scientifically rigorous reviews and analyses of data
18 on the prevalence, causes, effects, and implications
19 of tobacco use in the United States and reclassifying
20 cannabis as a schedule II controlled substance
21 would allow for a similar rigorous scientific review
22 of clinical research and testing by industries,
23 universities, research institutions, and federal
24 agencies on the potential benefits of medical
25 cannabis; and

26 WHEREAS, the classification of cannabis by the
27 federal Drug Enforcement Agency as a schedule I
28 controlled substance causes the possession, sale, or
29 use of cannabis to trigger federal statutes, including
30 federal forfeiture provisions; and

1 WHEREAS, concerns about the criminality and
2 forfeiture provisions in federal law impede traditional
3 banking institutions from doing business with potential
4 clients who cultivate, research, sell, or use cannabis
5 and its derivatives, therefore making cannabis commerce
6 very difficult; and

7 WHEREAS, the inability to utilize traditional
8 banking institutions impedes state and local
9 governments from adequately monitoring cannabis use,
10 and shortchanges the respective taxes owed to state
11 and local governments, potentially costing hundreds of
12 millions of dollars in lost tax revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, because cannabis businesses are unable
14 to legally utilize traditional banking institutions,
15 many cannabis businesses resort to the black market
16 and organized crime, making communities less safe; NOW
17 THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
19 THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa General Assembly
20 respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to
21 enact legislation to reclassify cannabis as a schedule
22 II controlled substance under the United States
23 Controlled Substances Act; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
25 this resolution be transmitted to the President of
26 the United States, the Surgeon General of the United
27 States, the President and Secretary of the United
28 States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United
29 States House of Representatives, and to members of the
30 Iowa congressional delegation.