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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

December 29, 1994

Carl Olsen  
Iowans For Medical Marijuana  
P.O. Box 4091  
Des Moines, IA 50333

Dear Carl:

Thank you for contacting me. I appreciate your taking the time to contact me regarding Dr. Abram's proposed research on medical marijuana. In response to your letter, I have contacted the National Institute of Drug Abuse, who has informed me that they will give Dr. Abram's request full and fair consideration.

I have long supported research for alternative medicines to promote new and more effective medical treatments. As the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, I provided funding to establish the Office of Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), helping to end the bias in medical research against worthy treatments outside of mainstream medicine.

The use of marijuana for medical purposes is a complex and contentious issue. Recently, NIH discontinued the use of marijuana in its medical research, having determined that it was not as effective as other available treatments and that it caused harmful side effects.

I will certainly keep your views in mind should legislation on this subject come to the Senate. I hope you will keep in touch with me regarding this issue or any other that is important to you.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

TH/wh

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