



5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Mr. Stefanchuk,

We are writing to you today from the International Alliance of Cannabinoid Medicine (IACM) Patient Council, a coalition of patient-led advocacy groups campaigning for safe and legal access to medicinal cannabis from Europe and around the world, to respectfully lend our voice as patients and caregivers to the call to legalise cannabis for medicinal use in Ukraine.

As patients with conditions as varied as chronic pain, multiple sclerosis, PTSD, depression, epilepsy and cancer, we have found our health immeasurably transformed thanks to cannabis, often where a host of pharmaceutical drugs had failed to successfully manage our symptoms.

It's fair to say, many of us had previously been living a life without hope and were tolerating levels of suffering, both mental and physical, that most people would struggle to endure. That was until we found relief from the cannabis plant, which we consume either in oil form or by vaporising the flowers, both of which are considered safe methods for medicinal use.

Our Patient Council also counts amongst its representatives, parents and caregivers of children with epilepsy and autism. One of the most documented uses of cannabis is to control seizures in children with intractable epilepsy. Time and time again, we have seen how cannabis medicine has not only controlled their seizures, meaning children are no longer rushed to hospital on a regular basis, thus saving the health system huge amounts of money per year, but the benefits also ripple out into the family who can finally regain some normality once again.

In fact, the health economic benefits in general for medicinal cannabis are significant, as from our experience, cannabis allows patients to reduce or indeed come off their other prescribed medications such as opiates and sleeping pills, and instead manage most of their symptoms with medicinal cannabis. From our experience, medicinal cannabis has a far superior side effect profile to many prescribed medications, with the result that overall patient quality of life significantly improves.

We truly believe that now more than ever, Ukrainian patients would benefit enormously from safe and legal access to medicinal cannabis and as an organisation representing patients from over twenty countries, we can confidently say that the patients of Ukraine will thank you for your forward thinking and compassion.

Yours sincerely,  
The IACM Patient Council  
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