Van H. Wanggaard
Wisconsin State Senator

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Wanggaard Hails Federal Drug Administration Approval of CBD-Based Drug

MADISON – State Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) is cheering yesterday's decision by the Federal Drug Administration approving Epidioliex, a cannibidiol (CBD)-based prescription drug. The drug has been specifically approved for the treatment of two rare forms of epilepsy, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome.

"This a great day for families suffering from seizures," said Wanggaard. "Parents of children afflicted by these life-threatening diseases know what's in their child's best interest. It's a small step toward the complete legalization of CBD, but it is a significant one."

Wanggaard is the author of Lydia's Law, which allows an individual to possess CBD if they have a doctor's written permission. Within 90 days, the Drug Enforcement Agency must re-schedule, or de-schedule Epidiolex to allow doctors to prescribe the drug. Under Lydia's Law, the state of Wisconsin must follow suit within 30 days.

Wanggaard cautioned that the FDA action did not lead to the complete legalization of CBD oil, however.

"It's important that people know that the law and Attorney General guidance on CBD oil has not changed," added Wanggaard. "Yesterday's action is limited to a single prescription drug, not all CBD products. For other CBD products, most people will still need a doctor's written permission to possess it."

The drug manufacturer hopes to have the drug available to U.S. patients in the fall, which would coincide with the timeline of DEA and Wisconsin re-scheduling of Epidiolex.

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