

**Written Testimony to Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services  
February 7, 2013**

As a Lt. in the Navy Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War I saw firsthand the devastation of combat, both physically and emotionally. Years later, in working with veterans as a pain management specialist for Sims Deltec and Centocor, I lead patient support groups for veterans dealing with the continuing scars of war. Many stories of how cannabis helped in coping with the never ending problems of sleep disorders, physical pain but, most importantly, the emotional trauma that persisted long after combat experiences gave me an ongoing interest in research, especially as it relates to internal wellbeing. There isn't a large body of research to draw upon because the supplier of cannabis for all studies in the US must come from NIDA (National Institute on Drug Addiction). Their stated mandate is to only approve studies that they feel will show a negative result. Nevertheless, a few studies have emerged that the Senate Health Care committee might find helpful.

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