



TEXAS VETERANS DESERVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The VFW asks you vote "NO" on SB 3

1.5 million Texas veterans answered the call to defend America's freedoms and individual liberties, serving with bravery and honor on foreign soils. Now they're fighting to preserve their freedom to make responsible health care choices, including access to legal hemp-derived products that have transformed their lives. Senate Bill 3 would eliminate these therapeutic options that many veterans rely on to manage service-connected conditions.

The VA's prescription approach is failing our veterans

- Veterans managing the physical and mental consequences of their service are routinely prescribed thousands of pills including opioids and antidepressants through VA healthcare
- Many face dangerous drug interactions from multiple prescriptions
- More than 17 veterans die by suicide daily nationwide, many while on prescribed medications
- Veterans describe being in a pharmaceutical "fog" that separates them from family and community
- The widespread "treat and street" approach medicates symptoms without addressing root causes

Veterans support responsible regulation, not prohibition

Veterans are not asking for uncontrolled access. The Texas VFW supports smart regulation that protects youth while preserving veterans' right to make informed health choices:

- Age verification (21+) with military exemption for 18+ service members
- Child-resistant, tamper-evident packaging requirements
- Strict testing and labeling standards
- Marketing restrictions to prevent youth appeal
- Enhanced enforcement funding through licensing fees

Legal hemp products provide a healing alternative

Hemp-derived products have helped thousands of veterans reduce or eliminate their dependence on prescription medications and alcohol:

- A 2020 American Legion survey found that **1 in 5 veterans (20%) use CBD** to manage health conditions such as chronic pain and anxiety (drdamas.com)
- In one veteran survey, **57% reported improvements in overall health after using CBD** products with pain reduction being a major factor. (drdamas.com)
- **75% of veterans** in one large survey said they would consider using cannabis or cannabinoid products to treat a mental or physical condition (norml.org)
- These products allow veterans to function better in daily life, not cause impairment

Trust veterans to make responsible choices

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We trusted you with our lives when we volunteered to serve our country, now trust us to manage our own health care choices.

- Texas VFW member

Texas has always honored those who served. Rather than implementing a ban that would force veterans back to problematic prescription medications, Texas can lead the nation with regulations that ensure product safety while respecting veterans' freedom to choose therapies that work for them.

Texas lawmakers trusted veterans to defend America's freedoms abroad. Now veterans are asking lawmakers to trust them to make responsible decisions about their own health at home.

Choose compassionate regulation over prohibition

The Texas VFW stands ready to work with lawmakers to craft legislation that protects youth while preserving veterans' access to products that have helped them transition from barely surviving to actively thriving.

**Don't force Texas veterans to choose between their health and the law.
Honor their service by supporting their right to make informed health care choices.**