

# New Jersey Psychedelic Bill Gains Public Support Ahead of Legislative Hearing

The U.S. Senate has passed a resolution urging the release of Marc Fogel, a U.S. citizen imprisoned in Russia for marijuana possession. Fogel, a lawful medical cannabis patient in Pennsylvania, was sentenced to 14 years for possessing half an ounce of cannabis, a punishment deemed politically motivated and disproportionate. The resolution, introduced by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), calls on President Biden's administration to intensify efforts to secure Fogel's release and condemns Russia's use of harsh sentences for political purposes.

## Health Issues and Legal Background

Fogel, who used medical marijuana to manage chronic pain from multiple surgeries, was sentenced following a "politicized show trial," despite his intent for personal consumption. The resolution points out the typical sentence for similar offenses in Russia is far less severe.

## Call to Action

The Senate's measure urges Russia to release Fogel and the White House and State Department to prioritize his case in diplomatic efforts. It also condemns Russia's use of disproportionate sentences for political leverage.

## Broader Context

The resolution is part of a broader push by lawmakers to address the detention of American citizens abroad, drawing parallels to WNBA player Brittney Griner's case. Sen. Casey and other lawmakers continue to press the State Department for stronger action to secure Fogel's release.

Email: [info@cannabisriskmanager.com](mailto:info@cannabisriskmanager.com) | Phone: +415-226-4060

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