FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2019 ~ The Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education & Research Foundation, in conjunction with the American Brain Coalition (ABC), recently convened a meeting of organizations representing patients, clinicians, researchers and payers interested in use of cannabidiol (CBD) and other cannabis-derived products for therapeutic purposes. Participating organizations included the American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, BIO, and a number of ABC’s patient organization members.

As many Bridge the Gap families are interested in trying CBD and cannabis-derived products to address seizures and other serious health issues, we’re forced to fly blindly for lack of critical information concerning efficacy, dosing, safety, and quality (i.e., what’s in the bottle). This is unacceptable and places our children at risk of additional harm. Our community’s needs, like those of other stakeholders we’ve met with, demands a federal regulatory approach that results in FDA-approved medicines prescribed and used within the confines of a patient-clinician relationship.

Our multi-stakeholder discussion identified shared goals and objectives to collectively pursue and advocate for as legislation and regulatory efforts go forward to allow for the optimal exploration of the therapeutic potential of CBD and other cannabis-derived products. These include:

- Eliminating barriers and incentivizing research
- Encouraging development of scientifically rigorous evidence relevant to specific conditions
- Enabling clinical decisions based on informed discussion between patients, caregivers and clinicians
- Discouraging the current, largely unregulated environment’s reliance on information based on hype, misrepresentation & pseudoscience
- Actively monitoring the safety and quality of CBD products and removing bad actors

We’ve committed to participating in a one-day “CBD Safety, Science and Policy Summit,” for stakeholders and policymakers. The Summit is scheduled for January 15, 2020 in Washington, DC and Bridge the Gap members interested in attending should contact admin@bridgesyngap.org for additional information, and Monica Weldon at monicaw@bridgesyngap.org