JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippians for Compassionate Care has released an official response to the House’s decision to deny Mississippians a fair vote on medical marijuana:

“Tuesday on the House floor, Speaker Philip Gunn (R-Clinton) led an effort to deny Mississippians a fair vote on the medical marijuana initiative. On a roll call vote, the legislative alternative (HCR 39) passed 72-49. It will now move to the Senate.

If approved by the Senate, the legislative alternative will be listed alongside our initiative (Ballot Initiative 65) in a way that will prevent a fair up-or-down vote on medical marijuana by confusing voters. The Speaker is opposed to medical marijuana and is opposed to a fair vote on the initiative signed by more than 228,000 Mississippians. He used every bit of his power to muscle through the alternative and pressure House representatives to vote with him, even if they supported the people’s right to a fair vote in November. The two representatives who helped him do it were Jason White (R-West) and Trey Lamar (R-Senatobia).

Led by Representatives Gunn, White, and Lamar, the House showed this morning that they couldn’t care less about the people who are suffering from debilitating medical conditions in our state and who could be helped with medical marijuana. The battle now shifts to the Senate. We hope that Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann and the Senate will do the right thing and oppose this alternative amendment to give Mississippians a fair vote on medical marijuana this November,” Jamie Grantham, Mississippians for Compassionate Care Communications Director.

About Medical Marijuana 2020
Medical Marijuana 2020 is a campaign to make medical marijuana available to Mississippians who suffer from debilitating medical conditions. 86,185 certified signatures from Mississippi-registered voters on petitions were required to qualify a constitutional amendment for the 2020 Mississippi general election ballot, and more than 105,000 certified signatures were submitted to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State reviewed the signatures and officially determined that the proposed amendment qualified to be on the November 2020 ballot. The amendment, if approved by Mississippi voters in November 2020, will give physicians the option to certify the use of medical marijuana for their patients who suffer from one or more of the qualifying debilitating medical conditions listed in the initiative and then allow those patients to obtain medical marijuana in a legal and safe manner from treatment centers licensed and regulated by the Mississippi Department of Health. The campaign is backed by a steering committee of medical and health care professionals, law enforcement representatives, leaders in the faith community, and veterans.