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Publisher: Wea H. Lee
General Manager: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Business Manager : Jennifer Lopez
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Drinking on Southwest Airlines flights just got a little more expensive



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Trump to impose steep tariffs on steel, aluminum, stoking trade war talk

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump announced on Thursday he would impose hefty tariffs on imported steel and aluminum to protect U.S. producers, risking retaliation from major trade partners like China, Europe and neighboring Canada as well as helping to trigger a large selloff on Wall Street.

Trump said the duties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum would be formally announced next week although White House officials later said some details still needed to be ironed out.

Trump believes the tariffs will safeguard American jobs but many economists say the impact of price increases for consumers of steel and aluminum, such as the auto and oil industries, will be to destroy more jobs than they create.

“We’re going to build our steel industry back and our aluminum industry back,” he said.

News of the tariffs drove the stocks of U.S. domestic steel and aluminum makers sharply higher, but also hit sentiment on Wall Street due to the potential impact of higher costs on consumers.

The move came after what one person with direct knowledge of the discussions described as a night of “chaos” in the White House due to frequent switching of positions in the administration.

The threat of tariffs was sharply criticized by some senior Republican legislators as well as industries from autos to oil whose input costs will rise. A major concern is that U.S. farm exports could be hit hard in retaliation by steel-exporting countries.

“Every time you do this, you get a retaliation. Agriculture is the number one target. I think this is terribly counterproductive for the agriculture economy,” said Senator Pat Roberts, who chairs the chamber’s agriculture committee.

China has already threatened to curb im-

ports of U.S. soybeans, while the European Union has said it will consider action as well. President Xi Jinping’s top economic adviser, Liu He, is in Washington for trade talks.

inRead invented by Teads

The move will not directly hit China that hard, with data showing that Canada supplies 16 percent of U.S. demand versus China’s 2 percent and is by far the largest steel exporter followed by Brazil and South Korea.

“Should restrictions be imposed on Canadian steel and aluminum products, Canada will take responsive measures to defend its trade interests and workers,” Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a sharply worded statement.

Brazil’s industry ministry said it would consider taking action on its own over the tariffs or in concert with other countries.

Two of its largest steelmakers, Cia Siderurgica Nacional and Usiminas sold off on the tariff news, closing down 4.4 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

Washington is already engaged in a dispute with Canada and Mexico over its proposed revision to the North American Free Trade Agreement and months of tense talks have failed to produce any meaningful progress.

Asked whether there would be exemptions for any countries, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said she would



rose 3.2 percent. By contrast shares of steel consumers fell with Ford Motor Co down over 3 percent and General Motors Co down almost 4 percent.

Chairman, CEO and President of Nucor John Ferriola and U.S. Steel CEO Dave Burritt flank U.S. President Donald Trump as he announces that the United States will impose tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum during a meeting at the White House in Washington, U.S., March 1, 2018. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

The administration says duties would protect U.S. industry, but critics say they would raise costs for industry and fail to deliver on a campaign pledge to boost domestic jobs.

Trump’s decision reflected a victory for the trade hawks in his administration, including White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who has been rising in importance, and a setback for those who fear the repercussions of the move, such as top economic adviser Gary Cohn.

It had appeared unlikely that Trump would announce the tariffs on Thursday after a night of back and forth inside

the administration.

“There was a lot of movement within the past 12, 16 hours,” said the source who had knowledge of the discussions, but who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

“It was going to happen. It wasn’t going to happen and then it did happen.”

The administration has also cited national security interests for its action, saying the United States needs domestic supply for its tanks and warships. Contrary to the action announced by Trump on Thursday, the Department of Defense had recommended targeted steel tariffs and a delay in aluminum duties.

Although China only accounts for two percent of U.S. steel imports, its massive industry expansion has helped produce a global glut of steel that has driven down prices.

Trade tensions between the United States and China have risen since Trump took office in 2017 and the administration is also pushing on what it regards as forced technology transfers to China.

While American steelmakers have lost three quarters of their

jobs between 1962 and 2005, a major study by the American Economic Association showed that much of this had been due to improved production technology as output per worker rose fivefold.

“Thus, even if trade protection leads to increased domestic production, increases in employment may be far less than many hope,” a report from the independent Econofact economist network said last week.

Econofact said in its report that two million jobs were in industries that use steel “intensively”, including auto parts, household appliances, farm machinery and oil equipment.

“Across many states, the number of jobs adversely affected in these steel-using industries could far exceed any steel jobs saved,” Econofact warned.

The overall impact on the U.S. economy is likely to be muted, barring a major trade war, with steel and aluminum imports accounting for just two percent of the overall total.



U.S. President Donald Trump holds a meeting on trade with members of Congress at the White House in Washington not get into any details ahead of next week’s announcement. She said the tariffs were still being finalized. After Trump’s statement, AK Steel Holding was up almost 10 percent, U.S. Steel Corp was up over 5 percent and Nucor



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Drinking on Southwest Airlines flights just got a little more expensive

By Craig Hlavaty

Starting Thursday, alcoholic drinks aboard Southwest Airlines flights will be just a tad more expensive.

Before travelers start drafting an angry missive to the airline, it should be noted that drinks aboard SWA are still cheaper than those found on some other airlines.

“Southwest Airlines is implementing a tiered pricing structure for our on board alcoholic beverages so that we can maintain our diverse drink options while continuing to enhance our drink lineup,” Lisa Tiller with SWA said in an email on Thursday to Chron.com.

Experienced, drinking travelers might remember \$5 drinks were common for years.

“We have maintained the same price structure since 2009, and our updated prices still keep us competitive and even lower than most airlines,” she added.

Southwest Airlines to Review Support Animal

The 20 percent hike in price looks minor.

Policy After Dog Bite Incident The incident occurred on a Wednesday flight from Phoenix to Portland.

According to the airline, Miller Lite, Dos Equis and glasses of wine will now be \$6. Liquor choices and premium craft beers like Fat Tire, Lagunitas, Leinenkugel’s will now be \$7.

By comparison, United Airlines charges upwards of \$7.99 for most cocktails, wine and beer selections.

Those SWA drink coupons that you may have been hoarding are still good, by the way. As always, salty snacks are still free.

On special days like Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Halloween, and the Southwest Airlines birthday (June 18), the first round is on the airline.



Starting Thursday, alcoholic drinks aboard Southwest Airlines flights will be just a tad more expensive.

Houston responds to DOJ sex harassment lawsuit

Houston will defend itself against a Department of Justice lawsuit focusing on sexual harassment claims dating back to 2009, a city spokesman said Thursday.

On Wednesday, the DOJ filed suit against the city over sex discrimination and harassment claims from two female firefighters dating back to 2009 who say their male coworkers tormented them over a two-year period by urinating on the women’s bathroom walls and sinks and scrawling vulgar slurs on their belongings.

City officials said in a Thursday email that the DOJ lawsuit stemmed from events of which the federal government has “long

been aware,” and which the city had looked into but not been able to substantiate.

“After a thorough investigation, the City could not substantiate the claims of the plaintiffs when they were made; nor has the City been able to resolve the claims asserted on a mutually agreeable basis,” spokesman Alan Bernstein said, in an emailed statement.

“Accordingly, the City will defend itself. The City does not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment.”

The Title VII lawsuit is the first as part of a new initiative by the Justice Department to combat sexual harassment in the workplace, federal officials said.

“Far too often, women are targeted and harassed in the workplace because of their sex,” Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore of the Civil Rights Division said in announcing the suit.

“Employees have the right to work in an environment that is free from sex discrimination and retaliation.”

The firefighters’ union pushed to see more evidence released in the case and decried long-standing criticism of the department.

“Dozens of firefighters cooperated in the various investigations of this incident, but unfounded criticism of Houston firefighters has continued for years,” Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association President Marty Lancton said after news of the suit first surfaced.





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Southern Television 15.3								2018年3月份 电视频道节目表		3/05/2018 - 3/11/2018	
美中时间	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.				
	26	27	28	1	2	3	4				
00:00-00:30	中國文藝 (重播)	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞						地理・中國 (重播)			
00:30-01:00								明星加油站 (重播)			
01:00-01:30	生活魔法師 (首播)					少年中國 (重播)	味道 (重播)				
01:30-02:00	經典電影 (重播)	動物傳奇 (重播)	Story China (English)	故事在中國 (重播)	防務新觀察 (重播)		中國大舞臺 (重播)				
02:00-02:30		中國功夫 (首播)									
02:30-03:00		今日關注 (重播)									
03:00-03:30		地理・中國 (重播)	中國功夫 (重播)				經典電影 (重播)				
03:30-04:00	English 900 (首播)					司馬白話 (重播)					
04:00-04:30	特別呈現 (重播)	電視劇《人到四十》 (重播) (English Subtitles)						武林風 (重播)			
04:30-05:00	空姐新發現 (重播)	電視劇《大瓷商》 (重播) (English Subtitles)									
05:00-05:30	Story China 故事在中國 (重播)							中國大舞臺 (重播)			
05:30-06:00	國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞						國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞			
06:00-06:30	防務新觀察 (重播)	海峽兩岸 (重播)						健身舞起來 (重播)			
06:30-07:00											
07:00-07:30								電影藏密 (重播)			
07:30-08:00	中國輿論場 (重播)	健康之路 (重播)				男左女右 (首播)	檔案 (首播)				
08:00-08:30							地理・中國 (首播)	經典電影 (首播)			
08:30-09:00	文明之旅 (重播)	Story China 故事在中國 (首播)	快樂童年 (重播)	中國大舞臺 (首播)			粵語天地 (重播)	明星加油站 (首播)	洋言洋語 (重播)	空姐新發現 (首播)	
09:00-09:30	今日關注 (首播)						電影藏密 (首播)				
10:30-11:00	國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞						國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞			
11:00-11:30	台灣心動線 (重播)	美食風味 (重播)	光鹽健康園地 (重播)	城市一對一 (重播)	體育報導火箭時 間 (重播)	Howdy Philippines! (首播)	中國輿論場 (首播)				
11:30-12:00		生活 (重播)					動物傳奇 (首播) (English)				
12:00-12:30	電視劇《人到四十》 (首播) (English Subtitles)					花季中國	特別呈現 (首播)				
12:30-13:00	卡通片《鞠萍姐姐講故事》 (首播)					洋言洋語 (首播)	粵語天地 (首播)				
13:00-13:30	特別呈現 (重播)	綠水青山看中國 (重播)	武林風 (重播)	中國民歌大會第一 季 (重播)	武林風 (首播)	地理・中國 (重播)	中華文化遺產 (首播)				
13:30-14:00	中國文藝 (重播)	中華文化遺產 (重播)	地理・中國 (重播)	幸福來敲門 (首播1)	幸福來敲門 (首播2)	中國民歌大會第一 季 (首播)	真情部落格 (首播)				
14:00-14:30	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞					國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞	Howdy Philippines! (重播)				
14:30-15:00	美食風味	光鹽健康園地	城市一對一	體育報導火箭時間	台灣心動線	健身舞起來 (首	花季中國 (重播)				
15:00-15:30	生活 (重播)					防務新觀察 (首播)	綠水青山看中國 (首播)				
15:30-16:00	電視劇《大瓷商》 (首播) (English Subtitles)					中國文藝 (首播)					
16:00-16:30	海峽兩岸 (首播)										
16:30-17:00	健康之路 (首播)				真情部落格 (重播)	司馬白話 (重播)	味道 (首播)	中國輿論場 (重播)			
17:00-17:30					明星加油站 (重播)	檔案 (重播)	文明之旅 (首播)				
17:30-18:00	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞					幸福來敲門 (重播1)	幸福來敲門 (重播2)				
18:00-18:30											
18:30-19:00											
19:00-19:30											
19:30-20:00	美食風味	光鹽健康園地	城市一對一	體育報導火箭時間	台灣心動線	生活 (首播)	防務新觀察 (首播)				
20:00-20:30	生活 (重播)					快樂童年 (首播)	綠水青山看中國 (重播1)				
20:30-21:00	電視劇《大瓷商》 (首播) (English Subtitles)					中國文藝 (首播)					
21:00-21:30	海峽兩岸 (首播)										
21:30-22:00	健康之路 (首播)				真情部落格 (重播)	司馬白話 (重播)	味道 (首播)	中國輿論場 (重播)			
22:00-22:30					明星加油站 (重播)	檔案 (重播)	文明之旅 (首播)				
22:30-23:00	美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞					幸福來敲門 (重播1)	幸福來敲門 (重播2)				
23:00-23:30											
23:30-00:00											
電電視台保留變更節目權利，以實際播出為準。								Updated as:		3/5/2018	

A Snapshot Of The World



Sri Lanka's Special Task Force members march during the 35th anniversary in Kalutara



People with their AR-15-style rifles attend a blessing ceremony at the Sanctuary Church in Newfoundland



Buddhist monks attend a ceremony on Makha Bucha Day at Wat Phra Dhammakaya in Pathum Thani



A college student smears a friend with coloured powder during Holi celebrations in Agartala



Snow can be seen on the deck of the RFA (Royal Fleet Auxiliary) Tidespring, during bad weather, 15 nautical miles south of Plymouth



Cheering squad members cheer up college students during a pep rally organized to boost their morale ahead of their job hunt in Tokyo



A woman walks along an embankment during a heavy snowfall in the Black Sea port of Yevpatoriya



A girl wearing an earring is seen as she celebrates Makha Bucha Day near a temple in Bangkok



Forza Italia leader Silvio Berlusconi wipes the sweat off Northern League leader Matteo Salvini during a meeting in Rome



Vanessa Tijerina addresses the panel about her 13-year-old special needs child who has been denied special education for four years on December 13, 2016. U.S. Department of Education officials held a meeting in Edinburg on their tour of Texas to hear community members' experiences with special education, continuing an investigation of whether Texas is capping services for students with disabilities.

A U.S. Department of Education investigation concluded Thursday that Texas violated federal law by failing to ensure students with disabilities were properly evaluated and provided with an adequate public education.

After interviews and monitoring visits with parents, school administrators and state officials, the federal investigation found that the Texas Education Agency effectively capped the statewide percentage of students who could receive special education services and incentivized some school districts to deny services to eligible students. It also told TEA that it needs to take several corrective actions, including producing documentation that the state is properly monitoring school districts' evaluations for special education, developing a plan and timeline for TEA to ensure that each school district will evaluate students previously denied needed services and creating a plan and timeline for TEA to provide guidance to educators on how to identify and educate students with disabilities.



"Far too many students in Texas had been precluded from receiving supports and services under [the Individuals with Disabilities

Feds Say Texas Illegally Failed To Educate Students With Disabilities

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

ities Education Act]," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a statement Thursday. "I've worked directly with TEA Commissioner [Mike] Morath on resolving these issues, and I appreciate the Texas Education Agency's efforts to ensure all children with disabilities are appropriately identified, evaluated and served under IDEA.

"While there is still more work to be done, leaders in the state have assured me they are committed to ensuring all students with disabilities can achieve their full potential."

In response to the report, Gov. Greg Abbott sent a letter to Morath demanding that TEA prepare an initial plan to reform special education within the next seven days, with the input of parents, advocates and educators. He also demanded TEA develop legislative recommendations to help ensure districts comply with federal and state special education laws.

Legislators passed a law in May prohibiting Texas from capping special education services. Special education advocates and parents had lobbied for a number of smaller reform bills during the session, few of which passed.



"Federal officials have provided no definitive timeline for action by TEA, but parents and students across our state cannot continue waiting for change," Abbott wrote. "I am directing you to take immediate steps to prepare an initial corrective action plan draft within the next seven days."

In a statement Thursday, Morath said he will continue to increase training and support for educators on educating students with disabilities.

"We have added significant resources focused on increasing technical assistance

and training for our school systems, including 39 statewide special education support staff in the last year," he said. "I am committing today that there will be more."

The federal investigation was prompted by a series of reports from the Houston Chronicle alleging TEA had denied needed special education services to thousands of students with disabilities across the state. Texas provides special education to a small percentage of students compared to other states. That number has gone up from 8.5 percent in 2015-16 to 8.8 percent last school year, according to TEA's statewide academic performance report. TEA has denied all allegations that it capped services for students.



The report comes more than a year after federal officials traveled to five Texas cities in December 2016 and heard parents tell numerous stories about educators who had not been properly trained on what services they were legally required to provide students with disabilities. The agency also collected more than 400 public written comments from those who could not attend a meeting in person.

Federal officials returned to Texas last February to tour selected school districts for a firsthand look at local special education data and policies.

The report Thursday confirmed the complaints of many the parents who spoke out at those meetings. It said:

TEA was more likely to monitor and intervene in school districts with higher rates of students in special education, creating a statewide system that incentivized denying services to eligible students. School district officials said they expected they would receive less monitoring if they served 8.5 percent of students or fewer.

According to internal reports reviewed by

federal officials, administrators at multiple districts worked to decrease the percentage of students identified for special education services — even though there was no evidence to indicate those actions were necessary.

School administrators provided some students suspected of having disabilities with intensive academic support as a way of delaying or refusing to evaluate them for necessary federally funded special education services. Teachers and staff did not understand how to deploy this support in a way that complied with federal law.



Texas has a policy to only provide federally funded services to students with dyslexia if those students also have another disability. That violates federal law, the report said, since it denies some eligible students federally funded special education services. School districts were found to be inconsistent in how they interpreted and carried out this state policy.

Many school district staff members said they saw evaluation for federally funded special education services as a "last resort" for students who were struggling to learn. They did not understand that students could receive these services in both

special education and general education classrooms.

The agency's attempts to address some of these problems in the last several months collapsed recently after it awarded a contract to overhaul special education to a company with a short track record without letting other firms bid for the job. After parents of students with disabilities argued the contract was poorly thought out, Morath terminated it — with \$2.2 million in federal funding already spent for services rendered. The agency is now conducting an internal review of its contracting processes.

Texas now lacks both a special education director and a long-term plan for overhauling special education, leaving parents and advocates frustrated and concerned.

Now that the Texas Education Agency has terminated a controversial no-bid contract aimed at improving special education services, critics are questioning how a relatively unknown Georgia company got the job in the first place.

After pushback from special education advocates, the Texas Education Agency is terminating a no-bid contract with a company to analyze thousands of personal records of students with disabilities — and reviewing agency contract processes.

Disability rights advocates are urging the Texas Education Agency to hit pause on a contract with a company to mine data on how schools are serving students with disabilities.

Continuing its investigation into whether Texas capped special education services, federal officials will visit Texas districts and schools.

Rio Grande Valley parents and educators told federal and state officials that school districts lacked knowledge and resources to get students special education services that comply with federal law. (Courtesy <https://www.texastribune.org>)





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The first delivery of prescription marijuana in Texas went out last week, a historic but limited step in a state playing catchup to 29 others that already have legalized cannabis for medical use.

For many of the 150,000-plus Texans living with intractable epilepsy, it felt like an answered prayer.

“It has the potential to be life-changing for my family,” a tearful Terri Carriker said, recalling the decade-long wait to treat her daughter’s epileptic seizures with a low-THC strain of cannabis.

Her 15-year-old daughter, Catherine, has suffered seizures daily since she was 3. The family tried just about every drug on the market to soothe the relentless pain, but the girl consistently failed to improve and the side-effects grew more severe.

Under the state’s Compassionate Use Program, Catherine now qualifies to receive prescribed low-THC cannabis medication - a promising, though not guaranteed, shot at a better life. Her family expects to pick up her first prescription from a local dispensary by the end of the month.

“I can hardly think about it without getting emotional,” Carriker said.



Consortium Texas, operated by Florida company Knox Medical, will be one of the first medical marijuana dispensaries in Texas to process prescription orders in the state.

The family’s story highlights the hope of a new option for a devastating medical condition, but advocates worry about limited access to Texas’ program. Because the Carrikers live in Austin, for example, their daughter won’t have to leave her hometown to get care. But with just three dispensaries in a state as large as Texas, families in farther-flung locales could have a much more difficult time, they say.

Signed into law in 2015, and overseen by the Department of Public Safety, Texas’ Compassionate Use Program is limited to helping only patients diagnosed with intractable epilepsy who have exhausted all other medicinal options and can prove no negative side effects from the drug.

This means the program excludes the son of Carriker’s friend, Bonnie Jensen of League City. While 12-year-old Micah Jensen has epilepsy, his specific type and the frequency of his seizures disqualify him for medical cannabis under the program’s narrow scope.

“He would be close to qualifying, but it’s hard to get a diagnosis for intractable epilepsy,” said Jensen, who would like to try medical marijuana.

Medical Marijuana Makes Texas Debut Amid Access Concerns

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Morris Denton, CEO of Compassionate Cultivation, poses with one of the low THC cannabis plants used to make cannabidoil medication for patients with intractable epilepsy in Texas.



Compassionate Cultivation, a medical marijuana dispensary in Austin, will be processing its first orders for low THC medication this month.

Even if Micah were to qualify, Jensen, unlike Carriker, would need to either drive a longer distance or rely on a delivery service to physically get the medicine.

Last year, DPS licensed only three dispensaries in the state which can grow, process and sell medical marijuana. Two are in Austin; the other is in Schulenburg, 80 miles west of Houston.

Further restricting access, just 17 physicians - none in West Texas or south of San Antonio - were registered to prescribe cannabis as of Feb. 1.

The dearth of both dispensaries and physicians concerns advocates and patients alike.

“We simply can’t go forward with three dispensaries for a state this size,” Frank Snyder, a Texas A&M University law professor who studies the legal marijuana industry.

When asked of the possibility of opening more in the future, a DPS spokesman pointed to the law enforcement agency’s website where it states that “a decision to increase the number will be made if and when it is determined that more licenses

are required in order to ensure reasonable statewide access.”



Potted marijuana plants ready for distribution from Compassionate Cultivation in Austin.

Health-care providers worry about patients’ access to the consultations needed for a prescription in the first place.

Under the program’s regulations, an eligible patient must seek consultation from a doctor registered in the program, then acquire a second opinion. Only then can the registered doctor input the patient’s information into a registry and prescribe low-THC cannabis.

Since there isn’t sufficient data regarding proper dosage amounts, doctors will want to monitor their patients carefully on a regular basis, said Valerie Coffman, coordinator at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic’s Epilepsy Support Group.

This could lead to costly trips out of town for families who don’t live near a registered doctor, Coffman said.

Kelsey-Seybold in Houston has two doctors registered with the program. There are six doctors total in the greater Houston region, including Katy and The Woodlands.

While acknowledging concerns over lack of federally approved studies on the drug, Coffman noted that preliminary research points to some benefits with little down-

sides.

“If it improves their quality of life in any way, that’s the goal here,” she said.



Your Doctors for Life

Kelsey-Seybold is already getting calls from new patients seeking consultation. Coffman knows of at least 10 current adult patients who would qualify for the program.

The clinic’s Dr. Michael Newmark said he’s not concerned of the possibility of losing his medical license for prescribing what is still a federally illegal drug. He noted that DPS is strictly monitoring the program, and that the level of THC allowed in the medicine is too low to serve any hallucinogenic purpose.

Yet Heather Fazio of the lobbying group Marijuana Leadership Campaign warned that doctors could face an issue with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Unlike other states with medical marijuana programs, Texas requires doctors to prescribe, not recommend, the drug. In light of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ actions and rhetoric, seen by some as part of a larger effort to curtail marijuana legalization, Fazio and others worry about the DEA removing doctors’ registration to prescribe all drugs.

Though the Texas program defines prescription differently than the DEA, it’s still leaving doctors with only a technicality as protection, Fazio and others said.

Despite their concerns, Fazio and other advocates see the Compassionate Use Program as a success.



“There are legal marijuana plants growing in Texas. It’s history,” said Patrick Moran, co-founder of the Texas Cannabis Industry Association. He added that he sees no chance of the program being undone at the federal level.

Moran points to the existing economic investment. Each of the three licensed dispensaries has invested a minimum of \$4 million in building out their facilities and personnel, Moran said. The two-year renewable license alone costs \$488,520.

During the bidding process for the licenses, 40 other companies applied, marking at least \$32 million of investment in the application process overall, Moran added.

The licensed dispensaries are already shipping orders or soon will be, further adding to the program’s economic impact.

Consortium Texas in Schulenburg delivered its first prescription to a 6-year-old girl in Central Texas on Thursday. The company charges \$90 for 600 milligrams of its low-THC medication, and \$135 for 900 milligrams. There is no delivery fee for orders above \$250.

Consortium Texas is owned by Knox Medical, a Florida company with operations in Florida, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico. CEO Jose Hidalgo said Texas was its next big target, with California on the agenda as well.

On Thursday, Compassionate Cultivation in Austin, the only Texas-based dispensary of the three, will begin sales, said CEO Morris Denton. There, 750 milligrams will go for \$105 and 1,500 milligrams will go for \$200. Orders above \$250 will be charged a flat \$25 delivery fee.

The other dispensary, Surterra Texas in Austin, did not respond to requests for comment.

As orders continue to go through, and patients like Carriker’s daughter at last get the medicine they’ve been waiting for, advocacy efforts will continue to push for an expansion to the program to include patients with more conditions such as other forms of epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and cancer.

A bipartisan bill requesting such an expansion managed to exit committee in the Texas legislature last year and advocates hope to revive it during the next session.

Carriker recalls being in the Capitol gallery in Austin when the deciding vote to create the Compassionate Use Program was cast nearly three years ago. She had first considered medical marijuana for her daughter in 2013, when a friend emailed her a Colorado news story about how the drug abated a little girl’s seizures without the often-severe side-effects most other drugs tend to create.

Now, Carriker hopes Jensen and other families currently excluded from the program can soon participate and judge it for themselves. (Courtesy houstonchronicle.com)



美南新聞高帝健康產業集團 SNG Gotit International Healthcare Group

融合中美一平台式體驗，一站式完整服務

高地健康醫療產業秉承“創新醫療體驗，服務世界華人”的初衷，協同35家世界級的醫療機構，創建“幫你醫”健康醫療平台，旨在以先進的遠程科技連接平台上的一百多名各個專科領域的頂尖醫生資源，為患者提供基于“互聯網+”的“中美聯合門診”“代孕”、“癌症治療”等系列遠程醫療服務，打造從線上（美國醫生）問診到線下（中美醫療實體）治療、康復的服務閉環，深化中美醫療合作、醫學交流以及中西醫聯合調理，助力緩解國內優質醫療資源緊缺的現狀，助推一站式服務的優化環節！



“幫你醫” 中美醫療平台的優勢



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美南新聞高地國際健康集團

位於休斯頓醫學中心核心區域。秉承創新醫療體驗，服務世界華人的初衷，協同休斯頓醫學中心世界級的頂級醫療機構，創建健康醫療平台。旨在以先進的遠程醫療科技連接平台各專科領域的頂尖醫生，為患者提供基於互聯網的中美聯合門診，代孕，癌症治療等醫療服務。集團的長遠發展目標將是建立無國界的健康交流平台。我們現在需要招聘以下人員：

- 1) 家庭醫生或者內科醫生：歡迎全職半職參與，已經有經營私人家庭診所經歷的優先考慮。要求合作者提供簡歷，有效德州行醫執照，並無聯邦DEA以及醫療事故記錄。
- 2) 一名前台兼代孕服務助理：歡迎全職半職參與；要求中英文流利，可以熟練完成中翻英英翻中；熟悉電腦文件處理，包括宣傳頁設計等；有做賬經驗以及有醫學背景尤其是生殖醫學背景的優先考慮。申請人必須有合法美國工作身份。工作時間要求8:00-5:00，周一至周五，周六9-2點，薪資面議。
- 3) 一名醫療助理：中英文雙語流暢。歡迎全職半職參與；申請人必須有合法美國工作身份。薪資面議。請申請人提供簡歷。**期待您的加盟！**

電話:713-261-0991 Jana Wang
SNGGOTIT@gmail.com.