

Health and Human Services Committee
Informational Hearing – Medical Marijuana Act
Wed. March 17th, 2010

Testimony in Support of HB2610

To: Chair Brenda Landwehr & Committee Members - Health & Human Services Committee

Let me make it clear that I do not advocate the legalization of marijuana or any other controlled substance. I have publicly supported medical marijuana and the reclassification of marijuana from a Schedule 1 drug to a Schedule 2 drug for over 25 years. (Class 1 - no medicinal value - Class 2 - medicinal value)

On June 25, 1983, the National Association of Attorneys General passed a resolution supporting legislative efforts to make marijuana available on a prescription basis to patients undergoing chemotherapy or suffering from glaucoma.

On September 6, 1988 Drug Enforcement Administration's Chief Administrative Law Judge ruled that it would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for the DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance (marijuana). The DEA ruled against the decision.

In 2007 DEA Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner concluded that University of Massachusetts Professor Lyle E. Cracker should be allowed to grow marijuana for use in research. The DEA did not accept this.

The American College of Physicians in 2008 issued the following statement: "Although the indications for some conditions (e.g., HIV wasting and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting) have been well documented, less information is available about other potential medical uses. Addition research is needed to clarify marijuana's therapeutic properties and determine standards and optimal doses and routes of delivery."

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