

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - 2019  
SENATE BILL SB-113

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- My name is Nicholas Kasper and I was invited to speak on behalf of Senator Tom Holland & I am a Proponent of Bill SB-113 Veterans First Medical Cannabis Act.
- I am a former United States Marine. I was injured while on Active Duty & was Medically Discharged February 28, 1993.
- In 2005 I injured my back and it has progressively gotten worse.
- I have been taking pain medication since my injury. As the years have gone by my pain has worsened to the point that I have not been able to work for several years because I'm in constant pain.
- I meet monthly with a specialist to manage my pain. Due to the Opioid Epidemic the CDC has mandated a strict limit to the amount of pain meds an individual can have a day. It is no longer up to my doctor and me how best to manage my pain. My medication has been reduced substantially.
- My life has been impacted severely by this pain to the point where I once enjoyed golfing & playing pool with my friends now I barely leave the house and struggle with simple things like making a meal or taking a shower.
- Among the many side effects of chronic pain are Depression and Anxiety. Which I struggle with both. I have also been diagnosed with PTSD from past trauma. My life has been greatly impacted by these issues as well. I see a therapist and take medications to help manage them.
- Through research I have found that Medical Cannabis can be used to help alleviate many of the symptoms I suffer from on a daily basis.
- There are many veterans that suffer from pain, anxiety, depression, PTSD, etc. Whose options for treatment are limited and could be greatly helped by the passage of this bill.
- As veterans all of us at the time of our swearing in signed a blank check to Our Nation up to and including our life. Now when it comes to our healthcare, we deserve the same kind of commitment to insure we have any and all options available.
- I would very much like to open and manage my own dispensary & help veterans like me to find something that can help them too!
- I hold on to hope that the passage of this bill and it's being signed into law that one day I too would benefit from the Veterans First Medical Cannabis Act.