

Melissa Sweet

From: Jamie Lowell <jamescapeland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 8:09 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Submission for hearing today- HB5512

Dear Members of The Michigan House Judiciary Committee,

Please vote NO on HB 5512.

It has been reported and discussed that the intention of HB 5512, in part, is to allow the drug court judges the opportunity to permit registered medical marijuana patients to continue to use their medicine if the qualified condition is considered "severe" enough. This is a problematic proposal that ought to be reconsidered with better information and perspective.

The Michigan Supreme Court decision in 2021 concerning *People v Thue* prevents courts from prohibiting medical cannabis use by registered patients while on bond or probation. This was a landmark decision confirming intended rights for citizens using cannabis medicines. If there is to be a change in law or policy, it ought to be to clarify and to codify the MSC's opinion that medical marijuana patients ought not be denied their medicine by any court- even voluntary drug court.

The passage of HB 5512 would actually allow for our citizen's health care to be evaluated by people who are not the individual's doctor nor are even medical professionals. A person using medical marijuana can follow a process in order to participate in the MMMP (MI Medical Marijuana Program). This means that the participant has taken the necessary and state recognized steps to use cannabis for approved conditions. This includes an examination and a recommendation letter from a state licensed physician followed by getting application approval from the state before getting a card issued to demonstrate being accepted into the state's medical marijuana program registry. This existing process ought to suffice for determining use of cannabis while under the direction of the court. Allowing judges and courts the ability to mess with the health care of our citizens could be very dangerous. At the very least, it is not necessary nor is it appropriate.

Additionally, cannabis ought not still be considered on the list of the dangerous substances that the drug courts must regularly address. Having the power to deny medical marijuana to registered patients infers that cannabis is still erroneously recognized as a dangerous substance. In contrast, there is evidence suggesting that cannabis is effective in helping people recover from dangerous substance dependencies (links to studies included at the end). The drug courts ought to be aware of and utilize updated methods for recovery on behalf of those most desperately in need of help. This ought to include recognizing cannabis as a possible "exit therapy" from dangerous substances.

HB 5512 is currently opposed by the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, MI Americans for Safe Access, MINorml, the Cannabis Caucus of the MI Democratic Party, Michigan Caregivers Association.

HB 5512 may be well intended, but was derived without reference for pertinent considerations by way of a process that inexplicably excluded many stakeholders with meaningful input. Please vote NO on HB 5512 so that the discussion may resumed including all necessary information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jamie Lowell
Director of Advocacy and Social Equity
The Botanical Company

Links to cannabis harm reduction articles and studies-

Cannabidiol Treatment Might Promote Resilience to Cocaine and Methamphetamine Use Disorders:
A Review of Possible Mechanisms

https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/8qerJ?_s=vu21KzYOyE94VstaERh4aZN2qgl%3D

The emergence of innovative cannabis distribution projects in the T downtown eastside of Vancouver, Canada

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340580840> The emergence of innovative cannabis distribution projects in the downtown eastside of Vancouver Canada

Frequency of cannabis and illicit opioid use among people who use drugs and report chronic pain: A longitudinal analysis

<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002967>

Surprise finding: cannabis may beat cold turkey

<https://www.drugfoundation.org.nz/matters-of-substance/archive/july-2019/cannabis-may-beat-cold-turkey/>

Brain cannabinoid receptor 2: expression, function and modulation

<https://www.nature.com/articles/aps2016149>

Analysis: Opioid Recovery Subreddit Users Frequently Report Using Cannabis for Treating Withdrawal Symptoms

https://norml.org/news/2022/02/17/analysis-opioid-recovery-subreddit-users-frequently-report-using-cannabis-for-treating-withdrawal-symptoms/?fbclid=IwAR2boL3LZsQA87t38LOr_p0wmUPIYIYzdxPh77HZqP2PwcOsglcOvckppx8

Sent from Jamie's iPhone