

Michigan Parents for Compassion
8175 Virginia Park
Center Line, MI
48015

September 22nd, 2015

Honorable Chairman Klint Kesto and Judiciary committee members,

Michigan Parents for Compassion is a Michigan non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide advocacy and support for children with severe and chronic illness and their families. Our members were directly involved in the drafting process and lobbying for House Bill 5104 in the last legislative session and we have been heavily involved in advocating for House Bill 4210 in this session. We are incredibly excited that the bill now appears ready to move from committee, however, we do have some concerns we consider critical for our families and hope that you will help us to resolve them.

Our first concern are the labeling and manifest requirements for transportation contained in section 4B. This language would make it a 93 day misdemeanor for a patient to transport a marihuana-infused product without a label or with a label with inaccurate information. In addition, it would make it a 93 day misdemeanor for a caregiver to transport a marihuana-infused product without an accurate manifest. We certainly support these types of regulations in House Bill 4209 and suggest that this language be moved into that bill.

Our second concern is the restriction of butane as a solvent. We feel the problem can be easily addressed by changing section (7)(b)(6) from "Separate resin from a marihuana plant by butane extraction on residential property" to "Separate resin from a marihuana plant by butane extraction in residential property." Another possible solution would be the requirement of usage of a "closed loop" system which does not allow the gas to evaporate into the open air. The stark reality is that we have parents that process their children's medication with butane - they are not going to stop doing this simply because the legislature passes HB4210. If caught, they will be charged with a 4 year felony and could lose custody of their child. These parents need a path to continue doing what is working for their child without requiring them to pay a retail store for the medicine they are currently able to make at home.

Our third, and final, concern is the language in section (6)(l) allowing for the Michigan medical marihuana fund to be utilized for the implementation of the system required under the Marihuana Tracking Act. We feel this system should be funded through the revenue generated by the licensing and taxing of retail marihuana provisioning centers and not directly by the patients and caregivers, who may or may not choose to participate in the retail system. We suggest adding language to HB4209 specifically addressing the funding of this system

Michigan Parents for Compassion greatly appreciates the significant amount of time and resources that the committee has devoted to this piece of legislation. We are grateful this topic is being addressed and feel, with these changes implemented, that this will be an enormous step forward in Michigan for our families and their children.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Powers

Executive Director

Michigan Parents for Compassion

