

March 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Senate Bill No. 113

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members:

My name is Tony Smith. I am 60 years of age and I am on chronic opioid pain medication and anti-inflammatories to control pain. I am a proponent of legalizing medical marijuana and I believe it would be very beneficial in helping to reduce the inflammation and pain in my body so that I could start to reduce the amount of chronic opioid and anti-inflammatory medication that I am taking. It will also reduce the side-effects that my body is dealing with due to taking this chronic pain medication.

I was diagnosed with rheumatic fever at the age of 12. It took my doctors at the time a week to diagnose my condition and it progressed to the point that my whole body was filled with inflammation and I was not being able to walk. At the age of 25 years old I started on anti-inflammatory medication due to chronic pain from the damage that the rheumatic fever did to my body causing arthritis symptoms. My pain and arthritis have progressed over the years to the point I am taking opioid pain medication along with anti-inflammatories. The opioids and anti-inflammatories never really cover all of the pain and I cannot move without them.

I started taking CBD oil in August of 2018 along with my chronic pain medication. Over the next few weeks of taking CBD oil, I noticed that the CBD oil was reducing the inflammation in my body drastically. It is helping me to have more mobility and I am able to stretch my chronic pain medication out further to where I am able to cut down on one full dose a day. I am also able to work and do more activities without so much discomfort that I was previously feeling even when taking my full dose of chronic pain medication. Through much research, I have learned that many people have used medical marijuana to reduce and even get off of their chronic opioid medications for pain control. I have always been diligent to follow my doctor's orders regarding my medication and I am not one that abuses them in any way. However, I am concerned with the opioid crisis that is happening today that I am being bunched in with those who are abusing their medication. I am also very concerned about the side-effects from all of the opioid and anti-inflammatory medication that I take and the damage it is doing to my liver, kidneys, etc. I also have side-effects of sweating, dry mouth, and chronic constipation. I am very interested in medical marijuana because it could help me dramatically reduce the amount of opioid pain medication that I am taking, control my pain with a more natural product, and not have all of the ugly side-effects and damage that opioids and anti-inflammatory medications have on my body.

Please consider how this could help those who truly need it to heal their bodies in a natural way. I know our government has recognized that there is an opioid crisis in our country. It is my prayer that our government recognizes that medical marijuana may be the solution.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tony Smith