

Angie Lake

From: Rep. John Walsh (District 19)
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Angie Lake
Subject: FW: testimony

-----Original Message-----

From: ~~email@licensedtocaremi.com [mailto:email@licensedtocaremi.com]~~
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 5:03 PM
To: Rep. John Walsh (District 19); ~~mshlink@hcglobel.net~~
Subject: testimony

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on the legal use of therapeutic cannabis in Michigan. I am a social worker who has provided home health care services to disabled populations through Medicare reimbursement. It is my observation that these individuals, many the personification of the most vulnerable patient populations with the most obvious conditions and in the greatest discomfort, have no viable means by which to exercise their legal right to a newly legitimate form of medicine.

They are chronically and/or terminally ill, and are afraid to bring the subject up to their traditional physicians, who are also declining to do so. If the subject does somehow come up, the doctors are frequently declining to write a recommendation. The patient then must choose between continued pain and locating a physician who will respond to their medical need/legal right. This major inconvenience is costly and risky, both medically and legally, for an already compromised population. Transportation and companionship are frequently unavailable, but are at times necessary, to meet this need.

In addition, successfully obtaining a card provides no guidance with regard to accessing safe, affordable, consistent medication. There is no access to viable edibles and tinctures, which are measureable, and vaporizing, which is reportedly significantly less toxic than smoking, which is also unavailable in any real sense for most.

Please take this population into consideration as these bills are considered. They continue to be at risk until there is a compassionate infrastructure which can be trusted by the health care community, cannabis community and the patient populations with whom these communities intercede.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Best Regards,

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