

SB 135 – Medical Marijuana Bill

Proponent

Edith K. Williams

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a retired CNA/Home Health Aide.

I remember visiting a patient at home who was in quite a bit of pain.

He had a stash of marijuana that he would have to remember to hide from the caregiving staff.

If he forgot to hide it, the caregiving staff was put in an awkward position, because technically, he was breaking the law.

Self-medication goes on more often than you'd think.

There may be gangsters who are promoting drug use and enticing youngsters into a life of crime. Legalizing medical marijuana would not condone this.

The medical marijuana user is very likely to be someone needs help with pain control or seizures.

I am especially concerned because of the increasing opioid problem which has made pain medication less available.

It seems sensible to legalize medical marijuana.

Like any medication, marijuana has its pros and cons.

Some studies have shown that marijuana may affect cognition, especially among young people:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/marijuana-use-may-cause-cognitive-impairment-even-no-longer-high-rcna13542>

For this reason, I think it is important for the use of this drug to be closely monitored by a doctor, and I don't support the legalization of recreational marijuana.

However, while working in nursing facilities, I have seen what happens when pain medication is restricted because of the fear of addiction.

There has been unconscionable and unnecessary human suffering because of the restrictions on pain medication.

That should not happen! Let's use some common sense.

Marijuana is not addictive in the same way that other pain medications are.

Let doctors prescribe it to people who need it, and monitor those patients closely. Thank you.