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March 16, 2010

Rep. Gail Finney 1754 N Madison St. Wichita, KS 67214

Re: Medicinal Marijuana Issue

Dear Gail:

This is concerning my opinion regarding the medicinal marijuana issue. The new drugs for anti-nausea, which we have available do work in 85% of the patient population. This leaves 15% of the cancer patient population needing additional treatment for their nausea. The Issue of appetite also is significant in that cancer patients have a significant loss of appetite and we do not have a good therapy for that.

As you know, physicians are allowed to prescribe narcotics derived from plants and we do prescribe morphine, Dilaudid, methodone and opium in a significant number of our patients. As you also know, marijuana in a pill form is available to be prescribed by a physician.

Based on all these facts, I do not see why medicinal marijuana would not be legalized. It is an extra weapon to try and comfort the patients as far as nausea and appetite are concerned. Compared to the drugs we are prescribing, it has very little down side.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Shaker R. Dakhil, M.D.

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