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PROTECT MEDICAL CANNABIS

IS MEDICAL CANNABIS DOOMED?

Many are concerned about the future of medical cannabis in 2014 and beyond. From private patient activists to concerned business partners, groups are working together to find common ground.

As a way to address these concerns, advocates have created many campaigns including *Health Before Happy Hour* and are urging Governor Inslee and state lawmakers to pass legislation that maintains the original compassionate intent of I-692.

We have many potential solutions in Washington for legislation that does not endanger patients. The original language of 5073 before Gregoire's veto remains relevant & has been heavily integrated into the Ric Smith Memorial Act & SB 5887. The M.A.P.S proposal also presents novel solutions to revenue issues.

Health Before Happy Hour is a collaborative grassroots effort sponsored by thousands of private patients and many local and statewide cannabis advocacy groups including:



Center for Study of
Cannabis
and Social
Policy





Washington was one of the first states in the nation to recognize that patients under a physician's care have the right to use medical marijuana

The lack of logic in these recommendations would be laughable if the health and welfare of suffering citizens were not at stake...

But it is, which makes them *simply shameful*.



The needs of this vulnerable population are distinctly different from the wants of recreational users.

If we are divided through miscommunication, misdirection & misinformation, the enemies of medical cannabis will find it very easy to oppress patients and limit meaningful regulation.



By working together and being flexible, medical cannabis providers can use regulation to enhance and evolve safe cannabis access in WA.

The time has come to develop a unified front & manifest positive change in upcoming medical cannabis legislation. Stakeholders must unite & support elegant new solutions to preserve patient rights.

CHALLENGE

DISMANTLING THE PROPOSED CHANGES

The Liquor Control Board and Departments of Health & Revenue recently released recommendations for legislative regulation of medical cannabis. These recommendations appear to be created without acknowledgement of a medical patients unique needs:

- Limit personal cultivation to six plants (3 vegetative, 3 flowering).
- Lower possession limit from 24 ounces to 3 ounces.
- Ban all collective gardens.
- Void all current doctors' recommendations and require new evaluations under harder-to-meet definitions of qualifying conditions.
- Restrict medical professionals to eliminate specialty cannabis practices and make recommendations equivalent to prescribing opiates.
- Require patients to register with the state and give law enforcement access to registry.
- Add another step in petitioning to add medical conditions.

SOLUTION

FINDING COMMON GROUND AND BUILDING EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS FOR ALL

It is not enough to say "NO!" and fight regulation because patients have long deserved more than an unregulated market. Consider mandatory testing for pesticides and mold. Many of us have consumed or encountered enough contaminated cannabis to know that Washington Patients deserve meaningful regulation protecting their medication & well being.

Influencing Legislators & Regulators

By conducting ourselves with dignity and maintaining an open dialogue with state lawmakers and Liquor Control Board decision makers, we can help determine the fate of medical cannabis.

There are many options before us. The future is not set in stone because of simple recommendations. We must work together to strengthen our unified message & interface with the media, support political candidates who reflect our attitudes & equip patients to lobby their senators & representatives.

BALANCE

ENSURING A BRIGHT AND SECURE FUTURE FOR WASHINGTON PATIENTS

The current self-taxed, self-regulated medical market must be given the opportunity to satisfy the voters' intent by becoming licensed businesses like every other legitimate store. By working with stakeholders, we can ensure a solution where community concerns are addressed without punishing some of Washington's most vulnerable residents.

Potential Beneficial Outcomes:

- Protected patient home grows
- Expanded potency limits for medical edibles and concentrates
- Exemption from sales and retail excise 25% tax on purchases by medical marijuana patients registered with the Department of Health.
- Mandatory testing for potency, mold, mildew and pesticides.
- Enshrine affirmative defense.
- Maintain current 60-day supply
- Even more is possible if we pass practical legislation this session!