



Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Endorsement of SB0605 - Public Schools - Medical Cannabis - Guidelines for Administration to Students

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Maryland's medical cannabis patients and Americans for Safe Access, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting the interests of medical cannabis patients, I write to formally endorse SB0605. Forcing minor medical cannabis patients to leave school grounds in the middle of the school day in order to receive the medication upon which they rely to maintain their health all while continuing to achieve their educational goals, places an undue burden on those children and on their caregivers. These patients may experience stigma and find their educational and/or social activities and opportunities curtailed, while their caregivers may find their ability to maintain employment and provide for themselves and their families jeopardized by their duty to be available to deliver and administer medication that should instead be administered by a school nurse.

Americans for Safe Access urges the State of Maryland to join the growing ranks of jurisdictions that have passed legislation to allow the administration of medical cannabis to minor qualifying patients on school grounds, including the District of Columbia, Delaware, Colorado, Washington, Florida, Maine, New Jersey, Illinois, California, and New Mexico. This bill, which would position minor qualifying patients to realize their educational potential and minimize disruption to all parties, is an excellent means by which to do so. Americans for Safe Access fully supports SB0605 and calls for its swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie N. Churgai".

Debbie Churgai,
Interim Director
Americans for Safe Access



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ASA is the largest national nonprofit organization of patients, medical cannabis providers, medical professionals, scientists, and concerned citizens promoting safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use and research, with over 100,000 advocates in all 50 states.