

March 3, 2023

Written Testimony in Favor of

HB 1135 – Health Care Facilities – Use of Medical Cannabis

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I am testifying today in favor of legislation that will allow patients who depend on medical cannabis to manage various illnesses, to have access to their cannabis medicine while they are being treated as an in-patient in a qualified Medical Facility (Hospital).

I am personally familiar with individuals whose overall health depends on the cannabis they take to manage their illness. An example is a dear friend who was recently admitted to the hospital with a brain tumor. She has been fighting cancer for some time, and using medical cannabis to manage the pain that is associated with this illness. She was offered “opioids” for pain while in the hospital, which offered little relief of the excruciating pain that she was suffering due to the surgery. However, even knowing that she was a medical cannabis patient, she was unable to take the medicine, which would have relieved her pain, without the danger that is often associated when administering opioids as part of a treatment plan.

I think most of you are familiar with Connor Sheffield, who is my grandson, and his story of years of hospitalization, surgeries, debilitating pain associated with an illness that he has had most of his life. Medical Cannabis “SAVED” Connor’s life, when all else had been tried, and failed. Now Connor, with the help of cannabis is living his best life, going to College, driving Race Cars, and being an advocate for individuals like him, who depend on medical cannabis. **HOWEVER, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO CONNOR IF HE WERE ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL, AND WAS UNABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEDICINE WHICH HE SO DEPENDS ON TO LIVE.**

Your consideration of the benefits that HB1135 will bring to so many individuals who have turned to and who depend on Medical Cannabis to improve their quality of life, would be greatly appreciated.

In God We Trust