

HB1135 Favorable

I am writing in full support of HB1135.

In 2018, my father was going in and out of medical facilities due to an infection in his knee. At one point, he was being given opiates for his stomachache which were, of course, slowing bowel transit and making his stomach hurt worse. I ran into one of the ICU doctors on the elevator and he inquired about my dad. Out of exacerbation I exclaimed "I wish I could medicate him! He's a medical cannabis patient and his pain would be much better handled by cannabis than opiates." The doctor looked at me and said "I completely agree with you but I need 5 years." Ironically, we are now 5 years later.

Another time came when my dad was wasting away at the rehab facility. We could not get him to eat. I asked the doctor if I could bring him cannabis mints (I am his caregiver) and she said I could but just not to tell her. I ran to the dispensary and an hour later he was drinking a milkshake. Cannabis literally saved him from wasting away.

He was eventually admitted to hospice but thanks in part to cannabis, he graduated from hospice and went back for knee surgery. At rehab they were shocked he was not taking opiates for pain at which time my mom admitted she was bringing him cannabis each day so he could sleep at night without opiates.

For years, we had the support of doctors who were forced to turn a blind eye to his cannabis use. Fortunately, we had their support or I do not know if my dad would still be alive today.

This bill will allow medical cannabis patients to continue to use their non-smoked cannabis during hospitalizations which will decrease opiate usage and will lead to improved outcomes. Please vote favorably for HB1135.

Thank you,

Dr. Stephanie Doersam, PT, DPT, M.Ed., #17910