

Senate Bill 304 – Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission – Certifying Providers

Senate Finance Committee

February 20, 2020

My name is Victoria Trott. I am a board certified physician assistant that works with a local outpatient neurology practice. I am here today to encourage you to approve SB 304 allowing physician assistants to certify patients for medical cannabis.

Continuity of care and monitoring of patients is an instrumental part of managing patients. Because I am unable to certify patients as a physician assistant, I am forced to tell patients that I have worked with for more than 6 years that they need to go and see yet another provider. Patients have returned unhappy with the care they received, stating only a few minutes were spent with them and the provider was not interested in their 20+ year medical history related to their condition. These type of pop up shops are concerning. If physician assistants were able to certify patients, then these patients would have not had this experience and their care could have continued in our office as it had over the last several years.

I have a patient suffering from chronic migraine that has tried and failed most conventional medications and therapies. She ended up closing her business because her symptoms were debilitating. She inquired about cannabis and after a lengthy discussion, she decided to move forward with this process. Unfortunately, after working with this patient for 6 years, I was unable to certify her for medical cannabis. Because I had to refer the patient to another office, her care was delayed for over a month. In which, during the time, she suffered from daily, debilitating pain. Since using cannabis, her quality of life has greatly improved and her pain is minimal, allowing her to return to work part time. This delay in her care could have been avoided if physician assistants were able to certify patients.

If we are able to certify our patients for medical cannabis, we can provide our patients with treatment sooner and continue our bonafide provider patient relationship. Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 304 and I ask for a favorable report.

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