

November 9, 2015

Lindsey Wingate
3783 S 16th St Apt 304
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 558505-0100

RE: Medical Marijuana

Dear Governor Dalrymple:

I am writing about the legalization of Marijuana for medical research. This topic became of interest to me this summer when my husband donated half of his liver to his father. The surgery was successful for my husband and father-in-law, however both suffered extreme side-effects from the medications and anesthesia required to perform this surgery. Many times the narcotics prescribed resulted in worse symptoms than the pain they experienced as a result of the surgery. For example, it took days for my husband to recover from the drowsiness and disorientation caused by general anesthesia from the surgery. A few days later, Reglan was given to my husband to cure a particularly nasty bout of nausea. This resulted in hallucinations and being unable to communicate clearly for the following 12 hours. There has to be a better solution.

I understand the hesitation of some when it comes to introducing Marijuana into a new state. We saw in Colorado and Washington many immediate and unexpected results of growing Cannabis, including the misuse of pesticides in Colorado. Also, Marijuana has been a social stigma for a long time. I agree Marijuana should not be used recreationally, however it should be available for medical testing. It makes little sense that drugs that produce hallucinations and are highly addictive are readily available when there may be a viable alternative.

For the State of North Dakota, the first step should be introducing legislation allowing Marijuana for strict medical research. The legal lessons and scientific evidence gained from other states would leave less room for Marijuana in our communities. Initial legislation should include regulations for the transport and handling of Marijuana to keep it out of the hands of minors. We could source from registered, legal growers in other states to avoid issues surrounding personal crops. When used in studies it should be monitored and only accessible by medical staff. Only if it is a successful alternative to narcotics already on the market, such as Oxycodone, should it be introduced to the public for medical uses.

Many clinical studies have shown Cannabis and Cannabis oil can provide an intense relief of pain and nausea, an improvement in sleep quality, and an improvement in appetite. Studies in North Dakota could focus on symptoms for minor

illness. If successful, studies can expand to patients with seizures, cancer, and more serious illnesses.

If there is an opportunity to discover a better cure for symptoms and minimize devastating side effects, North Dakota should be a leading participant in these studies. Please consider working with the legislature to introduce a bill that will establish medical research and explore the healing options of Marijuana.

Thank you for considering my thoughts-

Sincerely,

Lindsey M. Wingate