November 9, 2015

Lindsey Wingate

3783 S 16th St Apt 304

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

The Honorable blah blah blah

Address

Address

RE: Medical Marijuana

Dear blah blah blah:

I am writing to you 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 my 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.

I understand the hesitation of some when it comes to introducing Marijuana into a new state. We saw in Colorado and Washington many immediate, unexpected results of growing Cannabis for medical and recreational use, including the misuse of pesticides and an increase in traffic violations. However, a year after Washington saw a dramatic drop in arrests a year after (in 2013). Further, the 2013 traffic fatality rate was the lowest in history according to the Washington State Patrol’s Annual Report. Similarly, in Colorado traffic fatalities were also at a historic low for 2013 and 2014. There was also a drop in the crime rate and use of Marijuana among high school students.

To avoid these peaks and falls completely, I propose introducing Marijuana to North Dakota for strict medical research. Outsourcing samples from other states for studies would leave less room for recreational Marijuana to take a place in our communities, keeping our children safe, while exploring the healing possibilities of this drug. The health benefits have not been researched fully, leaving room to question whether prescription drugs are worth the side effects. Many studies have proven Cannabis and oils sourced from Cannabis provide intense relief of pain and nausea, improvement in sleep quality, and improvement in appetite. If there is an opportunity to discover a better cure for these symptoms, we should definitely participate in medical studies.

Thank you for considering my thoughts-

Sincerely,

Lindsey M. Wingate