

Subject: Rescheduling of Cannabis testimony

To: [Karen.S.MacLean@state.or.us](mailto:Karen.S.MacLean@state.or.us)

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 7:50 AM

Karen MacLean, Rules Coordinator

Board of Pharmacy

800 NE Oregon St., Suite 150

Portland, OR 97232

RE: Rescheduling of Cannabis

Ms. MacLean,

Dear Board of Pharmacy,

I write to you regarding the rescheduling of Cannabis.

My name is Sandee L Burbank I am 65 years old and have suffered from severe pain and muscle spasms since I was rear ended in an auto accident in 1962. Since then I have been re-injured in other auto accidents and sports related injuries. I also suffer from severe arthritis.

Over the years I have tried to use a variety of pharmaceutical medicines that have been prescribed to mitigate my pain and muscle spasms. I found the side effects incapacitating, as I needed to care for my children and family duties.

I have used medical marijuana since 1998. I use glycerin tinctures sub-lingually to halt the severe muscle spasms. I find that I get relief very effectively and quickly, far better than any pharmaceutical drugs that I have used over the years. For this purpose I just need to use it when I am having a spasm, which will usually cease in less than 5 minutes.

For the pain I use Cannabis in a variety of ways.

The tincture topically, used topically provides relief in about 10 to 15 minutes and lasts between 2 to 4 hours as do a Cannabinated salves made with coconut oil. Smoking Cannabis helps relieve the pain, but I have found that for me, the tinctures and salves do a better job.

When I need the effects to last longer, say through the night, I will take a Cannabinated oil capsule or eat food made with Cannabis oil or butter. This provides relief for several hours and allows me to sleep without using Ibuprophen, other NSAID, stronger pain relievers or sleep aids.

In September of 09, I was in a car accident that left me with broken ribs and a broken leg. Although I did use morphine, oxycodone, valium and other pain medicines for a few days while in the hospital, I refused them as soon as I had access to my Cannabis medicines.

I am the executive director of a non-profit clinic where I have close contact with over 5,000 patients. Many of them come to us to find an alternative to the pharmaceuticals they are prescribed with debilitating side effects. Cannabis medicine allows them to quit or cut back dramatically on these drugs that are easily available to them.

When the Board of Pharmacy considered rescheduling Cannabis in 1978, they looked at the science and recommended Schedule V. Since that time science has proven that Cannabis helps many conditions without the danger of death by overdose or severe side effects. I wish that could be said about other commonly prescribed medicines like morphine, methadone, oxycontin, oxycodone, etc.

Please consider taking Cannabis off the Pharmacy Schedule completely. If you feel it must stay on the Schedule, then please put it in Schedule V.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandee Burbank  
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