

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: drkathyo@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 11:13 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Medical Cannabis

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed changes to the Medical Cannabis regulations.

As a healthcare provider in the state of Pennsylvania, I refer a lot of my patients to the dispensary. I am currently very comfortable making such a recommendation as I always insist that they see the Pharmacist first to get the appropriate products for their condition. If the law changes and patients with true medical problems are being helped by a salesperson rather than a medical provider, I will stop making any recommendations to the industry.

I firmly believe that the dispensary offers a tremendous service for patients seeking a more natural approach to their condition. I have seen amazing results for patients needing help with sleep, anxiety, stress and pain.

My population of patients are mature, not young individuals and frankly most have never tried cannabis so would be very uncomfortable walking into the store with no guidance or recommendation for their particular condition.

Anytime a product, no matter how natural, is given in a therapeutic dose, it needs to be monitored and checked for any contraindications. Patients who are on multiple medications should not even take a vitamin without a professional checking to make sure there would be no adverse effects.

I believe if the law changes and a Pharmacist is now covering multiple locations, you are opening yourself up for major legal consequences. There have been major strides with the acceptance of Cannabis as a legitimate alternative to dangerous drugs and would hate to see the industry go backwards.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O. Smith, DC
2875 Holme Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19152