



Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Aug 30, 2022

Re: Section 1161a.25(b) Licensed Medical Professionals At Facility/Rulemaking #10-219:
Medical Marijuana

Dear IRRC Board,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. My name is Rebecca Maury and I am the owner and founder of Herbal Care Rx, a practice I started in early 2018 to provide certifications into the PA MMJ program as well as consultations regarding the use of medical cannabis for symptom management. I am board certified in both Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Care, and I have been a practicing physician for over 20 years.

I am very concerned about the proposed plan to remove or decrease the presence of dispensary pharmacists. While I provide some education during my consultations with PA MMJ participants, I always refer my patients to the dispensary pharmacist in order to discuss product selection. The dispensary pharmacists are an invaluable part of this very successful program.

In my work, I hear stories time and again from folks who have benefited greatly from the recommendations of the dispensary pharmacists. Many folks have described situations in which their symptoms were incompletely treated or even exacerbated because of an inappropriate product selection at the dispensary, which was then corrected during a pharmacist consultation, resulting in improved symptom management.

Many of the patients I work with have myriad and severe medical illnesses and are on multiple medications. Not having accessible, available and well trained pharmacists who are trained in cannabis based symptom management on-site at every dispensary is dangerous and irresponsible. I suspect it will ultimately result in increased ER visits, and a dwindling of participation in the program as people who are overwhelmed with the choices simply give up trying to treat symptoms with cannabis because of inadequate support.

This is a medical cannabis program, and needs to be treated as such. Cannabis is a complex medicine, and its proper use requires skill and a good working knowledge of its components. I have been awestruck, time and again, by the ability of cannabis to effectively treat a host of challenging and difficult to treat symptoms, often allowing people to taper off unwanted prescriptions and enjoy an improved quality of life.

It is truly a gift that we have this program. Every day I bear witness to the fact that it is providing great benefit to many. But without the pharmacists at the dispensaries, we would lose one of the key components of this successful and wonderful program.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Rebecca Maury, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Maury MD', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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