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Please accept this letter as testimony in opposition to H.B. 6715.

To: The Joint Committee on the Judiciary

This bill lacks a scientific basis. Section 1(1) of the bill lists a number of conditions that "medical" marijuana could be used for. There is no scientific research regarding marijuana and its effectiveness, risks, benefits, interactions with other drugs, and impact on pre-existing conditions for all these conditions. Studies do not exist on the quantity of dose and frequency of administration for marijuana for all the medical conditions in the bill. These studies are a requirement before a drug can be used for medicine. Smoked marijuana as medicine has been rejected by the American Medical Association, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Glaucoma Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Cancer Society. 57 Fed Reg 10499-10508; and Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics v. DEA and NORML v. DEA, 15 F.3d 1131 (D.C. Cir 1994)

Last year the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that marijuana has a high potential for abuse and has a lack of accepted safety for use. Furthermore, the FDA stated that there is sound evidence that smoked marijuana is harmful and there are no sound scientific studies supporting the safety or efficacy of marijuana for medical use.

Section 2 (3) of the bill permits the qualifying patient to have four marijuana plants. Four plants can produce up to 9,080 joints. What other medicine is dispensed in such huge amounts? This will lead to abuse. More kids will have access to marijuana.

People who use marijuana may feel better because it is intoxicating - but it does not mean that they are getting better. In fact, marijuana may be harmful and may cause their condition to worsen. To permit this is not compassionate. Before the development of modern pharmaceutical science, the field of medicine was fraught with potions. There were as many anecdotal stories about these potions as there are today about smoked marijuana. However, many of these potions were absolutely useless, or conversely were harmful to unsuspecting ill people. Please vote no on this bill.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Evans, Esq.
Executive Director