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To the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

This letter is in opposition to H.B. 6715

It is most important to understand that legislative actions giving access to marijuana seriously jeopardize consumer protection. Our processes for bringing medicine to the public have been established so that science, not emotion, prevails. Allowing such legislation to become law is riding a wave of emotion and mob psychology that has been carefully crafted, financed, and driven by the marijuana lobby. They have declared that medical excuse marijuana is the battlefield to gain the overall legalization of pot. It is no different than the disinformation campaign that the tobacco lobby fought for years to manipulate the public.

Please consider the facts. Marijuana is an extremely impure substance that has 488 separate constituents that turn into literally thousands of products when smoked. The percentage of THC is highly variable in street marijuana, and is not consistent like legitimate medicine. Marijuana is not a safe drug, and is far from clearly effective. The active ingredients of marijuana are already available to the public by medical prescription. What other drug would even be considered appropriate to deliver by smoking.

Marijuana has been clearly demonstrated to serve as a gateway drug in numerous studies. The gateway effect is unfortunately used to deflect from some of marijuana's serious side effects. While this is a minimally important issue for terminal cancer patients, it is a serious issue for young users and those who may use it chronically.

Some of the most consistently identified problems with marijuana are the effect on memory, concentration, and coordination. Studies have found that not only does marijuana have this effect acutely, but some effects have been identified even after 2 years of abstinence. The effects on driving skills and coordination are extremely serious, and marijuana is regularly implicated in trauma. Marijuana also has effects on the lungs, and has been found to damage lung immunity. Marijuana has serious effects on the fetus which has been documented not only at birth, but have also been seen in the children who used during pregnancy.

Finally, the medical excuse marijuana movement is a scam that is taking advantage of sick patients to advance legalization efforts. There is no advantage to smoking marijuana over available medications. More importantly, the recent legislative and ballot initiatives bypass the FDA process for proving safety and efficacy of medications, and they create medicine by popular vote. The FDA has recently stated that marijuana is not a medicine.

While advocates may have their own opinions, they may not create their own facts. Supporting medical excuse marijuana either reflects serious ignorance of the medical literature or malignant misrepresentation of it. Medicine and policy makers need to let cool heads prevail and stop this circus of medicine by popular vote which is dangerous and which plays in to the pot legalization lobby.

For a detailed discussion of medical excuse marijuana go to [www.globaldrugpolicy.org](http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org)

Sincerely,



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