

Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as testimony in opposition to H.B. 6715. I recently learned that you, as the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, will be hearing a medical pot bill.

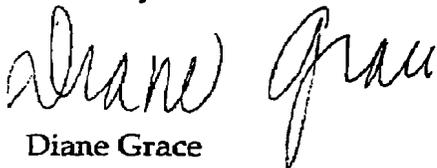
As a parent and a program director of a mentor program for teens, I recognize the role that drug use has in academic failure. Marijuana is particularly a problem for our youth since it begins often as early as 13. Its use slowly erodes the passion and capability for schoolwork and attention. Also, marijuana use contributes to poor choice making by today's teens who feel marijuana is harmless which we all know is not the case. It is already too easy for youth to obtain marijuana with many teens saying that marijuana is easier to buy than cigarettes or alcohol.

I believe that with an increase in the availability of marijuana as proposed under the auspices of marijuana dispensaries, there is a distinct probability of it falling into the wrong hands as a high priced commodity perpetuating an industry already out of control. Also, it's use as medicine sends the wrong message to our youth that smoking marijuana has medical benefits.

One fact we know from prevention - as perception of harm decreases, use increases. Our youth can ill afford to increase their use of marijuana.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



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