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SB 555

Opponent In-Person Testimony

Esteemed Senators;

I stand in strong opposition to Senate Bill 555. As a licensed medical doctor and Board-Certified Anesthesiologist, I will focus my comments on the “qualifying medical conditions” and physician responsibilities defined in the bill.

Bottom line-

After an extensive search of PubMed which is the NIH National Library of Medicine comprising more than 36 million citations from Medline, life science journals, and online books, it is obvious that no meaningful high-level studies exist proving the efficacy of marijuana in treating any of the “qualifying medical conditions”. Any studies of quality are done with the specific active chemicals extracted from the marijuana plant. All other studies are simply case reports for all intents and purposes.

In the face of such an absence of supporting scientific studies, a physician could not possibly fulfill the bill requirements to reasonably believe that the benefits outweigh the risks as a requirement to prescribing.

The concept of being exempt from liability has no basis in the practice of medicine.

Physicians have regulated and studied proven medications such as Marinol that contain specific THC molecules to prescribe relatively safely and relatively accurately from a dosage standpoint. This fact renders medical marijuana pointless unless ulterior motives are the driving force behind its promotion.

Medical Marijuana as this bill presents is a greed-based scheme designed to benefit the investor over the individual.

Senator Mark B. Steffen, M.D.