

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1535

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

---

Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 8:00 AM

---

Michael Zamot

self

Little Elm, TX

I support this legislation. Thanks for your consideration and service! Nobody should be going to jail (and their life ruined) for having a plant God created.

Asad Rahbar

self

Austin, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Josh Bernstein

self

Selma, TX

I support this legislation, and the medical benefits associated with cannabis. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Deborah Darcy

None

Aledo, TX

Please support this bill and consider how it can really help people. God gave us this plant to help us. So much more helpful than opioids and non addictive. Thank you

Melisa Sparks, PHD

Sparks Cannabis Education Center

Victoria, TX

I am a patient and owner of Sparks Cannabis Education Center in Victoria Texas. Without the o would be dead literally.

Gary Richardson, Dr

Every Obese or Diabetic in Texas

Palestine, TX

THCV could cure diabetes and obese folk with no will, education or way of improving themselves. But in Texas, at least, it is called rare, expensive, and it doesn't seem to do a lot without the entourage effect you get blending it with THC. People are

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

beaten down, lives destroyed, limbs are lost to the drugs offered to these folk. Drugs that do not improve their health, but only help them to keep making the same excuses for themselves and stay hooked on complex sugars. Marijuana can destroy this addiction, along with many others, like nicotine. Have some compassion. It will only save in health insurance because people wont need to go to the dr as often. Texas needs to be able to fight back against all the temptation out there. Heart and liver disease on every other corner. There is no place to eat in my town that is sensitive to the health of the community. Subway isn't fooling anybody anymore. Bread is slave food; incredibly unhealthy. Served because it is cheap and easy to produce... and causes a number of health problems. We aren't allowed to talk about complicated sugars like they are a harmful addiction? That's what they are! Have compassion, Texas. Give us THC Sativa. Every where I look, here, I see slavery. Give these people Something to improve themselves with.

Mike Williams

"Self" Security

Arlington, TX

I can personally swear to the efficacy of Medical Marijuana.

It saved my wife and unborn child's life. She was a very high risk to pregnancy diagnosed with hyperemesis gravidarum and was recommended an abortion the entire pregnancy due to the ongoing risks.

The doctors recommend that we go to a medical marijuana state for better health care and she did a 180 after using. Both She and our child are safe and healthy now. Infact he's hot all his milestones super early.

She also suffers with adenomyosis since the age of 12 and has to muddle through each month. In california she had a prescription to manage the adenomyosis due to pain and it kept her functional. Now here in Texas it gets so bad she's been hospitalized due to seizures onset by the pain.

David Jentis

Self

El paso, TX

Keep the veterans in this bill

Elizabeth Wilson

Myself

Azle, TX

I have suffered with severe chronic pain for the past 10 years. I have tried every treatment possible with no relief. I have been left with no option but opioid treatment which frankly, is not how I envisioned the balance of my life. I have Rheumatoid Arthritis, spinal stenosis that required hardware in my neck and lower back and peripheral neuropathy. I am hopeful that you will extend cannabis treatment to those of us who need an alternative to opioid medications 4 times a day. I am 68 years old and would like to increase my mobility as trying to raise my grandchildren while in constant pain is difficult. Please consider this bill for compassionate use.

Justin Jaks

Self/

Victoria, TX

Ladies and gentleman, who are elected by the people of the fine state of Texas, please move Texas forward in regard to cannabis legislation. I know full cannabis legalization is not currently in the cards, however, medicinal used Cannabis is a staple for many Texans. While I have read responses by state and federal legislature members that do not condone THC or Cannabis medical use

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

due to unstudied health impacts, I would encourage you to move forward with increased medical studies, lower penalties for cannabis possession under certain amounts, and medical legalization. I believe this could lead to increased tax revenue for the state, lower incarceration rates for THC possession, and better utilization of law enforcement personnel. Also, with Mexico legalizing cannabis, the delay or inaction on your part could to increased border altercations and smuggling. Even if you personally do not agree with routine cannabis use, know that the majority of your constituents are unopposed or indifferent to medical legalization. Please move the state's cannabis regulations forward loosening the current mandates/laws in order to allow access for the people who elected you to office. Allowing Texans to choose legally, whether cannabis is a suitable option for pain management or daily consumption for chronic conditions, will greatly help the state of Texas, and Texans themselves move forward into the 2020's utilizing a plant that has been around longer than our great State. Thank you for your open minded consideration.

Patricia Kirchner

Self-retired

Boerne, TX

Thank you for bringing this bill forward. I have been fighting for safe access since about 2010 when I visited my Aunt in Playa del Rey California and found medical cannabis. I experimented in high school in the 70's but did not like it so was not a cannabis user as an adult. I would very much like to be a part of research programs for my chronic pain. I found eating it helped relax my muscles that are constantly tense from the pain. I used the vaporizer for breakthrough pain. It helps me to start moving which helps versus laying down all day and locking up. I strongly believe this is a medical issue that should be between the doctor and patient to figure out dosage. The reason I'm so passionate is because I know this will help so many patients, not just myself. I pray God gives the people voting the courage to give us a chance to have a better quality of life.

God Bless Texas!

Patricia Kirchner

Alexander Parker, Mr.

Self, customer service associate

Amarillo, TX

As a Texan, a taxpayer, and a voter, I fully support this bill. Please do the right thing and increase access to compassionate medicine and end the witch hunt on responsible cannabis use.

Robert Patterson

Self

McKinney, TX

It would be an honor to speak further in person should it assist in any way during these proceedings.

I'm born in Dallas, and since a child was prescribed excessive pills as my condition was not well known, but generally classified as stemming from a PTSD event. I rationalized suicide and took my life at 19 relying on those substances that actually were driving some of the mania. Cannabis is the only thing that has allowed me manage my anxiety without making my depression worse.

My father, again born in Dallas, now has two types of cancer. He cries unable to eat some nights due to the discomfort during Chemo therapy, but refuses to try cannabis. I've seen cancer patients first hand, and it would allow him to eat. This decision is based of his trust in the system, more so this state, based on it's position and specifically it's classification. This is what brought me back after leaving the state. I left the state for a career in Information Technology, specializing in global compliance to a city where I could manage my condition without fear of loosing my freedom. A Texan shouldn't have to leave home trying to find solutions for serious conditions, which current solutions are consider as bad as the opioid crisis. Please, educate yourself on the Xanax epidemic impacting our youth. I wouldn't speak so candidly if I didn't know this will save Texans lives, and allow some to live.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Aside from my personal situation which relates to this bill, ladies and gentlemen, the state could use the tax benefit. A majority of Texans support measures like these. Every-state which takes on compassionate-use policies also increases the tax revenue by helping lives of those they represent.

For the live of me ladies and gentlemen, this is a win win for the critical measure of re-election for your all. I beg of each of you, my PTSD cost my life as a youth, passing this will save them. I offer transparency should you have any questions, knowing the risk out of duty for those after me here.

Thank you for taking this conversation and offer seriously.

With best regards,  
William Patterson

Isaiah Calderon  
Self  
Irving, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service

David Strickland  
Self Solutions Architect  
Frisco, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Nick Granberry  
Self  
Wichita Falls, TX

Cannabis needs to be available medically to all citizens. The current program is all but a joke.

Ricky Castaneda  
Self  
Irving, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service

Marcus Reyes  
Self  
Irving, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service

Susan Garthwaite  
Self retired  
Mabank, TX

Good evening,  
I have migraines and glaucoma. Medical marijuana has been proven to help. Please let this pass.  
Thank you for your time.  
Susan Garthwaite

Jessica Tiedt  
self, chief court administrator  
Georgetown, TX

I support this piece of legislation for forwarding to the calendar committee. It's beyond time we expand what Texans can use and what they can use it for. Thank you.

Kenneth Mann  
Self  
Katy, TX

I am in full support of this bill and would actually like to see it go further. I'm sure you know that marijuana is not only less harmful than alcohol but it also has quite a number of medical benefits.

I would like to see Texas join with the other 15 states that have legalized it and remove the penalties that good people are subject to.

Leah LoneBear, ACLSPARAMEDIC  
CIAAG  
Liverpool, TX

It is encouraging that Texas is considering expanding conditions for which medical cannabis can be used. That being said instead of the State trying to be helicopter Dr and control the THC cap Texas needs to put a quality medical MMJ program in place with quality Cannabis Drs that make the decision about percentage and dose. There are so many people who can be helped this way if the state will stop trying to micro manage it. What truly needs to happen is it needs to be legalized with a quality medical program available . The state makes it too difficult to avail ones self of this life saving medicine and frankly missing out on boat loads of tax revenue. This state is also wrong for causing a medical card to disqualify a person from being able to own fire arms if they use MMJ. There are countless people who own firearms and get raging drunk every day of their life and no one will disqualify them from owning a fire arm when the truth of the matter is people who use MMJ are peaceful and dont want to fight with anyone where as drunk people start waving guns around on a regular basis. The concept that using MMJ and having a firearm is a danger is totally ludicrous. Texas needs to get with the program. Its a toss up as to whether Texas or Tennessee will be the last hold out and frankly its embarrassing that Texas has done this because are supposed to be smarter and better than that. Lt Gov Dan Patrick has failed to represent the will of the people and is exercising his will over the people and frankly the public is fed up with it

Kaden Aubert  
Self  
Richmond, TX

I support this legislation. Thanks for your consideration.

Sandy Block  
self

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Georgetown, TX

As someone with medical conditions which cause pain and sleeplessness, I would like to know that medical cannabis is something available to me should I make the choice to use it. In light of the pharmaceuticals given for pain, often with severe side effects including addiction, I fail to understand why something that has been used effectively for a myriad of reasons for centuries isn't available. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Gary Williams

Norml

Athens, TX

I suffer from chronic pain and have had multiple surgeries and procedures. I do not take opioids. Medical marijuana would be very helpful. Texas should catch up with the many states that allow people like me to obtain and use medical marijuana.

Phillip Moore

Self

Balch Springs, TX

I believe the world would be a better place with this law.

Eduardo Bsrreera, Retired SGT US Army

Self

Edinburg, TX

As a retired disabled combat veteran with PTSD and major Chronic pain issues this would really help so I do not have to take opiates. Thank you

DAYNA SAWYERS

Self

Garland, TX

I wish I could get off pain pills. They contain a lot Tylenol that accumulates in the body and causes organ shutdown. I've lost two family members that way. I'm in so much chronic pain I fight the urge to end my life and know I'm a terrible strain to my daughter who is my caretaker.

Paul Cyphers

Self, executive in the oil and gas industry

Midland, TX

Please support this proposed, very limited, expansion to the Texas medical cannabis program. Texas is far behind neighboring states on cannabis law reform, and without change Texas will be continue to be a haven for the black market. Support Texan and Texan doctors' right to choose cannabis as a treatment option.

Texan support for medical cannabis, and cannabis law reform in general, appears to be at an all time high with the majority of Texans supporting medical cannabis and an end to the failed "war on drugs". It is beyond evident that putting Texans in a cage for cannabis use, especially those using cannabis medicinally, is a disproportionate response.

Respectfully,

Paul

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Justine Sawyers

My mother

Garland, TX

I watch my mom wither in pain, she's constantly complaining and crying about it. She's prescribed medications that are not natural, that hardly work but are legal. It should be illegal pushing stuff that kills people when they are taking it as prescribed. I've lost 2 family members over their organs shutting down becuz everything has Tylenol in it. Is it greed from politicians? Are they getting money from big pharma? Why take man-made toxic 'medicine' when there is something out there that is natural and it's illegal and WORKS!?!? Texas can profit from the tax dollars. It's the government that is hurting its residents. Marijuana is a plant with a plethora of uses from hemp to pain killers. It blows my mind how politicians stay closed minded, afraid of how they will look to their donors.

Lee Nudelman

Self

Austin, TX

Unfortunately, the governmental hypocrisy to free society needs to stop. If you are unaware, the fda approved a synthetic made marijuana back in the late 80's and big pharma has been allowed to profit off of that since. However a free citizen can't get access to health condition improving herbs that readily grow and are cheap to produce. Medical needs to be expanded to include irritable bowel diseases as low THC is very helpful in minimizing the symptoms.

Steve Amos

Self

Katy, TX

I have a very bad back and refuse to take pain meds. Cannabis would really help me.

Fredrick Canales

Self barista

Rising Star, TX

I support this bill because as a veteran of the United States military cannabis helps me with my depression and anxiety. If it were readily available it would help more people that would prefer to use it rather than ineffective or dangerous medication.

Akila P. Wienecke

Self

Austin, TX

I support this legislation.  
Thank you for your consideration and service!

Joshua Dunn

Self teacher

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Fernanda Lugo

self

El Paso, TX

One factor in deciding where I would move for graduate school , was accessibility to my medication. I suffer from fibromyalgia, interstitial cystitis, irritable bowel disease and migraines, as well as premenstrual dysphoric disorder. I had experimented with cannabis and found relief from all of my conditions when a friend shared some homemade edibles. I knew I could have a more stable life, free of the chronic pains of these ailments if I had access to this medication, preferably legally. As a biology and health researcher I am familiar with the theories of how endocannabinoid deficiency can lead to some of the syndromes I had been experiencing. The science is sound, and it helps. It helps me continue my work on days when pain would be otherwise unbearable. There is no risk for me. It is pure healing. When I moved to Pennsylvania where there is medical marijuana program I was thrilled to be able to access my medicine without stigma which was contributing to much of my trauma. I urge you to take action to help Texans who are finding relief from their health issues with cannabis, however cannot speak about it, or access it in a safe non-criminal way.

Joel Gentry

Self

Aransas Pass, TX

Hello and to whom gets this, my best regards..

Riddel me this. If your a believer in God then you should also know in the first book of Genesis .This is where he talks about what he gave us, the fowl in tha the fish of the sea and every and emphasis on Every Herb that bear seed.

There is science that indicates the human body has THC and CBD receptors all though out the human body.

God gave it to us but government has taken it away.

I pray this falls into a open mind and heart.

Thanks in Advance , Joel Gentry

K. Rokovich

Self

Austin, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service

Vernon Anderson

self computer technician

Beeville, TX

I write today to ask you to please support the expansion of medical use cannabis and allow this bill to come to a vote in the full house. I am a chronic pain patient and have had issues with back and elbow pain for over a decade. Cannabis has allowed me to live a higher quality life and to work. I do not have the addiction issues and deterioration of health that would be caused by opioid use. Cannabis has allowed me to live a normal pain free life and be a tax paying Texan, but has also forced me to hide as if I were a criminal risking my job and liberty in order to live pain free. All Texans should be allowed to reap the benefits of what is in my opinion one of the best natural pain medications to ever exist.

Keith Evans

myself

SUGAR LAND, TX

My 23+ year career at IBM was cut short when I had to go on long-term disability in 2008. I live with unbearable nightly nerve

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



pain, in both feet, with daily aggravation. I have worked my way through every treatment possible over 16+ years, for my severe, chronic Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy. The last alternative was an implanted morphine pump. While I went through testing to see if I was a pump candidate, i had the opportunity to try marijuana edibles. The edibles with 100mg of THC x 2 (2 pieces) provide enough pain relief to increase my sleep from 2-3 hrs per night to 4-5 hrs per night. It is life-altering. Please open this program up to chronic pain patients, and allow physicians to recommend the levels of THC and CBD the patient needs. I am tortured at night. My Pain physican stated "It's a lot less intrusive on your body" than a pump. If it helps, go for it in Colorado or a state that allows it because I can't allow it in Texas.

James Hamilton

Self/Disabled

McKinney, TX

Some free and open society here in Texas. Since when has restricting the choice of Free Americans been the practice of Political Engines? The Government has no right to restrict American citizens from choosing what they may or may not use as medicine to relieve Stress, PTSD, Pain Management, Anxiety, or any other medical and emotional traumas or conditions where the Pharmaceuticals that are prescribed are so dangerous that death and a shortened life span by Kidney, Liver, Heart and other vital organ damage are the usual side effects? What Republican or Democrat can stand up right now and go on the record as staunch believers of Reefer Madness? If so you have been living in a cave or under a rock for a great many years now and should recuse yourself from voting on a number of bills that not only free Texan Citizens from these draconian laws but from your ignorance or worse your compromised situations taking money from you know who and voting to protect their interests and not those of your constituents. Its time to dissolve all of these laws that are and have been based in lies by folks who have gotten very rich off your inability to progress with the truth and Freedom. Y'all know it and Y'all are going to have quite a bit of egg on your faces when We the Great State of Texas is last in making this reality of truth and a Free America true here in Texas before We are the only fools clinging to a Flat Earth belief. Y'all should be ashamed of yourselves if you don't release your citizens to be able to grow and use Cannabis in whatever way they see fit without Govt intrusion or worse. This has gone on long enough Sons. Time to do something that makes sense and not to criminalize ordinary citizens who struggle every single day due to your inability to reason and change with the facts and reality of this travesty. If i weren't so bugged up I would come down there to give your pompous you know what's a tongue lashing but I am at the end of my days and blind and all tore up from everything life threw at me.

Linda Searcy

Self

Bellevue, TX

As a constituent and someone who suffers chronic pain from severe arthritis I support this legislation. I believe I and others like me would benefit from the passage of this bill.

Thank you .

ARTHUR ELLIS

Self

Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. Cannabis is needed by patients with certain illness. It does not need to be a Crime. Please Pass this bill. All most all citizens are for making cannabis legal and not making criminals out of good persons.

Mark Hinze

Self

Spring, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

As a chronic pain sufferer prescribed endless pain pills that I REFUSE . It would be nice to get pain relief occasionally instead of gritting my teeth through life in pain.

Abraham Oommen

Diverse Revenue Management

Houston, TX

I am a disabled veteran, with PTSD and intermittent explosive disorder, I also have congestive heart failure and all sort of colitis that started during my active duty service. I take all kinds of medication for my ailments prescribe to me by the veterans administration and CBD and low THC products are the only thing that work for me and keep me level-headed and grounded so I think that my 25 years of struggle with mental illness and PTSD are qualifying me to make this statement and I hope soon enough we can get a bill to make medical marijuana all the way legal in our great state of Texas.

Walter Grimes

self

Kilgore, TX

I support the expansion of the use of THC, people with conditions such as HIV and cancer could find some relief.

amanda hughes

Self/ licensed esthetician

GARLAND, TX

Vets are not the only people diagnosed with PTSD. A diagnosis isn't medically limited to military. In addition, a cap of 5% is ANOTHER arbitrary number, not a scientific one.

Please allow doctors to determine all conditions and dosages.

Felipe Ayala

Self

Hidalgo, TX

I support this bill. Please consider voting on this bill, thank you

Eduardo Perez, Mr

Myself

San Antonio, TX

I am a Texas disabled veteran that has Fusion on L4,L5,S1. (Lumbar spine) With titanium screws and plates. Also have severe arthritis on my cervical (neck) with bone spurs at every level and moderate to severe stenosis. I suffer from chronic pain, stiffness, soreness. Also suffer from depression, anxiety and insomnia. I support this legislation and if it passes it will help many people.

Brittney Lagunas

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self

Kemp, TX

Please vote to pass this bill as it would mean a better quality of life for myself as an individual and as a mother! It is imperative that we allow ourselves to remove the man-made toxic chemicals that our physicians are only allowed to prescribe. Please vote to pass this bill!

Jorge Longoria, Mr

Innovation Compassionate Care LLC

Garland, TX

Me and my organization support this bill fully but would like this to extend further by allowing doctors to determine THC levels for their patients.

Julie Archer

Self

Deer Park, TX

I am a current patient with a script of CBD/THC for my MS. This has helped my spasms so much and I would like to see it legal for more people with medical issues.

James Pavone, Mr.

Every Texan and Self

San Marcos, TX

There are so many things wrong with this bill.

First off, what about HIV+ people? I am HIV positive, and high-THC cannabis fights every single negative side-effect of my meds. So cancer patients and Vets are ok now, they can use a castrated, less potent, medicine for their service, but if you're HIV+ you still go to jail where you are raped and murdered by the cartel gangs or die of covid? Why create arbitrary conditions that exclude people. Why not leave it up to Texans and their doctors. Why keep destroying the lives of good Texans over a house plant?

Next, is the assumption that the medical efficacy of cannabis "isn't fully understood." The power of cannabis as medicine has been known for thousands of years, and this is underlined with modern research. The presence of the body's natural endo-cannabinoid system prove humanity evolved with cannabis over the eons. Furthermore, there is significant modern evidence that its the high-THC products that are the MOST medicinal, this is why true medical states allow for its access, and why VETS and every other cannabis using Texan seek REAL cannabis on the black market.

Next, the prohibition of cannabis goes against Christian teaching. Genesis 1:29 - "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food." You are preventing people from exercising their religion. You are preventing me from exercising MY religion. This is illegal under the 1st amendment of the constitution.

The use of cannabis is largely a cultural difference. We can only assume that if Texas won't legalize cannabis, it's because Texas WANTS OR NEEDS black and brown children as fodder for the private prison system. The 13th amendment allows for Americans to be slaves if they have been convicted of a crime. Do you think that Texas should still be in the business of keeping black and brown kids as slaves only because they CORRECTLY choose cannabis as the safest treatment for a multitude of conditions.

Lastly I leave you with this thought:

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

The CCP keeps their Muslim Uyigar and Falon-Gong Bhuddists in the death camps they call "work-camps". Survivors tell a story that they are constantly scored on how well they speak Mandarin and whether or not they can assimilate into modern Chinese society. They are given the choice to assimilate or die. those who score poorly never leave the camp and are either worked to death or executed.

Texas gives their cannabis using citizens the same choice. Assimilate, become a Texan who smokes two packs a day and drinks 10 beers at night, or you'll die jail. Just like the CCP you are discriminating against a cultural difference and even a religious difference. And as A God-Fearing, HIV+ Texan, this bill is only baby-steps in the right directions when we need real change.

Rick Sitton, Rev.

Self

Bryan, TX

I am an ordained United Methodist pastor. I've advocated and continue to strongly advocate for further expansion of the use of medical cannabis because I have seen the results for those with chronic illness, including seizures and cancer. The use of this God-created plant can alleviate pain and suffering for many, many people. My grandson has severe autism and cannot speak. I have stood up for his rights because there are many like him whose caregivers (which I am primary) need to pursue the best options available to help intractable illness or disability. In August 2020, my older brother was diagnosed with CNS Lymphoma (inoperable brain tumor in the stem). His pain was constant. His 7 months of chemo treatments unsuccessful. He died about 10 days ago. He found using legal cannabinoid products (Hemp) only a short-term and minimum relief, but it was something. The THC level in these products are not high enough to provide any real relief from his suffering. He was in constant pain. Please, out of compassion and common-sense, allow people to have their liberty to access cannabis in various forms with at least a 5% THC level. When people are diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor, withholding a pain reliever (anti-inflammatory) like medical cannabis with THC doesn't help anyone, especially the person suffering. I hope you will make changes to allow greater expansion and access with an increase of THC.

Respectfully,

Rev. Rick Sitton  
Senior Pastor  
FUMC Bryan  
Bryan, Texas

Laurie Zapinski

self

Manor, TX

Chairperson and committee members, thank you for having this hearing.

Hi my name is Laurie Zapinski, I am a 55 year old mother, grandmother, homeowner, and technology worker. I have worked hard all my life raising my kids as a single mother. I am a productive member of society.

I was arrested for an insignificant amount of cannabis (3 grams) in a container in my purse, in 2003. I was treated like I was a violent offender, I spent the night in jail, and took a deal in court for another day in jail (for a total of 3 days, which included my arrest, in jail), had my license suspended, had to maintain a SR22 to get my license back and pay the fines to the DPS.

I have a class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana conviction. Any job I apply for I have to disclose that I have a record for possession.

I have type 2 diabetes with severe neuropathy. Cannabis works on my symptoms where prescription drugs have failed me. When I was able when working at my company's corporate headquarters in San Francisco I was able to use transdermal high THC patches that have no psychoactive effects, and control the neuropathy pain completely.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

I do not use opiates, and have stopped taking gabapentin which is also used as a psychological pharmaceutical and simply does not work. Medicinal Cannabis should be an option for all patients in Texas, there are many studies that show there are many therapeutic uses for Cannabis, in treating pain, PTSD, & Cancer to name a few.

My job requires that I am able to think, it requires a logical thought process. I do not take opioids for the neuropathy, due to severe reactions to it, and the side effects associated, so most of the time I am just in pain. Cannabis does not affect my ability to make decisions nor does it impair my ability to think, troubleshoot and analyze technical issues the way that prescriptions do, I am able to control the pain and function.

I am not a danger to society, I am not a danger to anyone! I like any other Texan should be able to choose what I use for my pain, and not be forced to "just live with it" which is where I am now without breaking the law!

Thank you,  
Laurie Zapinski

Keri Shoppach

Self

Austin, TX

I support this legislation as do 60% of Texans. Please support our veterans and support this bill. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Charles Ellis

Self - Senior Software QA Engineer

Arlington, TX

I have suffered from chronic pain for 20 years. First from playing football when I was young and recently from a car wreck. I also have medical conditions that have contributed to chronic pain, such as osteoarthritis, gout, degenerative disk disease, narrowing of the spinal canal and other genetic conditions that have been passed down to me.

In total, I've had 7 surgeries: 1) 2002 - Fusion of C6-C7 caused by a ruptured disk, 2) 2008 - Fusion of C5-C6 caused by a ruptured disk, 3) 2010 - Repair of left ACL, 4) 2012 - Sinus surgery to repair malformation of turbinate's, 5) 2017 - Repair of left shoulder dislocation (torn labrum, bicep and rotator cuff), 6) 2019 - Fusion of L4 caused by a car accident, and 7) 2020 - Fusion of C3-T1 caused by the failure of the previous 2 C-spine fusions.

I've gone to a multiple pain management doctors with mixed results. The only pain relief offered to me were narcotic pain medicines and/or physical therapy. It helped for a while. Then, as it happens so often, those pain medications begin to help less and less over time and it takes more and more of those narcotics to obtain any relief. Then, the doctor's will stop increasing when they believe that they can no longer help. Yet, the pain I'm in on a daily basis persists and has for 20 years.

I believe, the positive results doctor's have documented in states that have enacted the use of THC cannabis, can be the same positive results that will happen in the great state of Texas. I also, believe that the use of THC cannabis is inevitable throughout the country and it would be wonderful to see it happen in Texas sooner than later. Then those of us living with chronic pain, for any number of reasons, will be able to get the relief that is much needed. The ultimate goal is to be able to rejoin their previous way of life. That will lift the burden of chronic pain and feel like we can get on with life with a much better outlook.

With all that being said, chronic pain sufferer's and their families will be much happier and productive. That would be an enormous win for everyone...including Texas and the country as a whole.

I implore you to vote 'For' HB1535 because it will indicate that you all care about chronic pain sufferer's in Texas and provide relief to the millions that suffer daily.

The passing of HB1535 will be appreciated by more people than you know! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Samantha Sawyer

Self- patient

Bryan, TX

My name is Samantha Sawyer and I would like to share my story with you. I am the sixth great granddaughter of Elizabeth Plemmons Tumlinson, one of the Old 300 to settle in this state. My Texan ancestors include one of the first ten Texas Rangers to protect and serve, one of them signed for the Come and Take it cannon and another died at the Alamo defending it. I am as Texan as they come and like my ancestors, I'm proud to fight for Texans, just as you do.

I am currently taking a pharmaceutical drug, Marinol. This FDA approved schedule III drug contains the same Delta nine THC cannabis that is currently banned under federal law. I have an incurable disease called Crohn's Disease that causes horrible pain and I cannot even take opioids because of the damage they can have on the digestive system. For every year that I have active disease my risk of developing colon cancer increases, and even if I had cancer I still do not qualify under current law to receive cannabis under the Compassionate Use Program. I deeply appreciate you for your willingness to fight for sick Texans as you voted to enact this law, even as some of your party members refuse to do the same. By expanding the conditions that qualify a patient under the TCUP, you would be giving me and many other Texans a quality of life that we can only dream of right now. Before the FDA approved cannabis I could not keep food down, I lost fifty-seven pounds over six months. I thought that I was going to die before my doctor prescribed the Marinol, but it is not enough.

As you know, it is long past time that our state join the 32 other states and District of Colombia in protecting the sickest among us from being arrested and prosecuted for using medical marijuana when their doctor recommends it. These various laws are helping seriously ill individuals across our country by relieving the nausea associated with chemotherapy, thereby increasing appetite, and by easing the pain and burning associated with neuropathic pain (which is notoriously unresponsive to other treatment options). The Compassionate Use Program is currently very limited, and all patients deserve safe, inclusive access to treatment options.

Paul Shirar, Dr.

Self

McKinney, TX

A brief background; I am the son of a 28 year U.S. Air Force vet from Texas. I very much enjoyed the benefit of living overseas in my early life thanks to my dad's work. I hold three degrees including a bachelors in management information systems, and a masters in public policy and administration. I am the husband to a passionate school teacher and the father to an intelligent, creative, history-loving son. As a Texas resident who suffers daily from degenerative cervical stenosis and chronic pain with chronic migraines, I have been on the turbulent prescription-opioid rollercoaster for a number of years against my better judgement yet at the behest of a pain management doctor. Those were the worst years of my life! Rarely did I leave the house, let alone my bed, during those dark days. I am eternally grateful that there are those who have found that a therapeutic non-addictive herb not only assists in breaking unwanted opioid addictions so that one can be an active member of their community again, but has the added benefit of minimizing and in some documented cases eliminating pain entirely. It befuddles me, as it does a growing majority, as to why anyone would persist with illogical archaic rhetoric, repeatedly proven as blatant disinformation, regarding cannabis in this age. Science, medicine, and health should never fall into the realm of political partisanship. Please believe me when I tell you that your constituents are not misinformed and should never be patronized. If nothing else, please take this with you: But for an unjust law, cannabis users are otherwise law-abiding citizens.

Richard Bernhardt

self

Austin, TX

I support this legislation. I have had two operations on each ankle when I was a child. I suffered infections after the second and that has left me with chronic intermittent pain and swelling. Marijuana, in edible form, eases my pain and allows me to walk on my worse days. I travel quite a bit and am able to seek relief from marijuana outside of Texas, but not here at home. I moved here over a decade ago with some hope that Texas, known for its stances on personal freedoms and personal responsibilities, would be a leader on marijuana legalization. The marijuana plant is a gift from God; it relieves pain and can be used for food,

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

fuel, and fiber. Please let Texas join those states who understand that marijuana prohibition is a detriment.

Donna Craig, Mrs

Self

The Colony, TX

I fully support the passage of this bill. I only wish it that it might be expanded to include coverage for additional conditions with Dr. discretion. Thank you for your service.

Gerald Garrett, BM1/RET/Nav/50% Disabled Vet

Self

Port Aransas, TX

Hi,

I am retired military cannabis my medicine as have GERN a gastro disease and some other problems all mitigated with cannabis. Please allow me my meds legally as feel am an outlaw in the state of Texas.

Jessica Clawson

Self homemaker

Kingsland, TX

I support this legislation

Christy Van Meter

Myself

Round Rock, TX

I support this legislation. Please, remove the veteran only for PTSD.

Gary Saenz

Self

Corpus Christ, TX

"I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!"

Here are a few recommendations to improve this legislation:

Let Doctor Decide on Access and Dosing.

Doctors (not lawmakers) should determine whether or not a patient can benefit from medical cannabis. They should also be trusted to make decisions on dosing for their patients. Arbitrary limits on THC hurt vulnerable Texans who need it most.

Authorize Independent Labs for Testing and Consumer Protection

There's still no mechanism for independent testing of Compassionate Use Program medicine, which is the only way to truly ensure consumer protection and industry accountability.

Protect Physicians

To participate, doctors are required to "prescribe" cannabis, an act that jeopardizes their registration with the DEA and their ability to prescribe controlled substances to any of their patients. To protect them, we need to change the law and allow them to "certify" a patient for the program, rather than "prescribing" cannabis.

Protect Patients

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

There are no patient protections included in this bill. We need to do all we can to protect the vulnerable Texans participating in the Compassionate Use Program. No patient should have their parental rights jeopardized or be disqualified for a job because they use cannabis legally under state law. Gun rights need to be protected and professional licensing should never be compromised because a patient chooses cannabis rather than pharmaceuticals.

michael nast, Dr.  
Self, pharmacist  
San Antonio, TX

Hello. I am writing in support of this bill, however recommend the following changes:

Let physicians decide who needs medical cannabis. Health care professionals should be in control, along with their patients, of their patients medical conditions and decisions. Legislators can play a role in allowing the Bill to proceed, but it should stop there. Discrepancy is up to the individual and their doctor. We don't dictate how people should be treated for diabetes, heart disease, anxiety, etc. Let's not start now. Medical cannabis has been shown anecdotally to treat a wide range of conditions. Of course the research is lacking in this sense, mostly due to the current laws on the books. Health care professionals and patients frequently use medicines "off label" based upon anecdotal evidence.

The proposed THC cap at 5% should not exist. Again, allow physicians and patients together decide what is best for treatment. Where does this 5% limit come from? It cannot be evidence based because, as outlined in my previous point, the science is limited due to existing laws hamstringing research efforts. We again know anecdotally a wide range of THC products are used in real life treatment scenarios. If the limit at 5% holds, patients will be consuming more product to compensate, thus increasing any chance of side effect and ultimately spending more money on medicine.

Thank you for your time

Dr. Michael Nast, BS, Pharmd

Fabian Villalpando  
self  
Rio Hondo, TX

As a veteran with 100 percent disability that includes, chronic pain, PTSD, depression and anxiety I recommend that patients be allowed to receive Medical cannabis to treat their illnesses. I lived in Washington State for a year and was able to sample different cannabis strains. It helped with my pain and greatly reduced my depression and anxiety. I don't believe there should be a cap on THC levels, as THC in combination with CBD helps with the illnesses mentioned earlier. I started using CBD first and it did help with the pain, but when I began using cannabis with THC and a high CBD, it helped dramatically. I stopped taking my Tylenol 3 and ibuprofen 800mg 4-6 times a day and a very low dose of depression medication. Once I came back to Texas, I had to get back on my pain medications and a high dose of depression medication, which do not work very well. It is hard for you to understand the benefits of Cannabis, when you have never had to use it. I currently work as an office manager for a clinic and have a Bachelors, Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) license, and want to begin working on my Masters this year, but it is difficult when I am in so much pain and have depression as well. If I really wanted to start using cannabis, it is not very hard to find, especially around here its everywhere, but I do not want to jeopardize my career and get in trouble with the law. I also do not know what the street drugs contain so I have to wait until the law changes and if they do, I will definitely start using cannabis again. Please understand that this drug is already here and has been for a long time. At least if it is legal, we know what we are getting and do not have to risk getting sick because of it. All I ask is to put yourself in our place, or imagine it was one of your family members telling you that it helps and reduces their pain. Would you really let them suffer? If you would, then I would not even know what to tell you. I understand that there are rules to have some type of control as with tobacco, alcohol, opioid prescriptions, etc., but if history has shown us anything, its that no matter how much you attempt to control something, it will never be 100 percent controlled. Please consider passing this bill, I ask for myself and the 1000's of veterans that are going through what I am and know that not all people that use cannabis are bad people. Thank you.

Crissy Ellis

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Texas normal

Vidor, TX

I have bad ptsd from a abusive relationship with bad anxiety I don't hardly get out of my bed let alone out my house unless I have to go do stuff. I have bad depression and pain from car wrecks from people that have hit me not my fault plus the abuse didn't help my body either. I use cannabis to be able to deal with my ptsd, pain, anxiety, depression, and many other problems. Please consider everyone else like me to also get the medical cannabis like the veterans. I know they need it but so do I and lots of others like me. Also it would be great to move it to the 5 instead of .5 Thank you god bless

Karen Rouchon

Karen Rouchon

San Antonio, TX

I have been a chronic pain suffer fir over 33- years and I can't take opioids as they are too strong for me and I hate taking pills they will only hurt me and my body. It's way over time for Texas to wake up and realize medicinal marijuana would gives us some hope of living a better quality of life. When you live with chronic pain it stops you from living any kind of life! I ask you to please make Texas better for pain suffers and legalize medicinal marijuana ty

Alan Abraham, Rev.

Self and Texas Silver Haired Legislature, Ret.

Amarillo, TX

I support this bill as it clearly expands Texas's Compassionate Use Program and it encourages supervisory testing under state purview of medicinal applications for cannabis.

Viridiana Edwards

Self- Retired, Student

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. My name is Viridiana Edwards, I am a born and raised Texan. In 2005 I signed up to serve in the US Army, I served honorably for 10 years until I was medically retired due to injuries that I sustained while serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. These injuries led me to seek care with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, the medications that were prescribed to me ended up harming me instead of helping. I soon found myself taking medications to treat side effects from other medications, it was a sick cycle. I finally found relief with medical cannabis while in California. I finally felt peace, there was a silence in my body that I had not experienced in a long time. I dreaded coming home to Texas because I knew I could not use medical cannabis. This led me to design a study for my master's thesis at UTEP on veterans that are using medical cannabis, it was published in 2019. I was surprised that even though it was a national study, 3/4 of the responses came from Texas veterans. This led to my second study with the Baker Institute for Public Policy that focused on illicit medical cannabis use "How Texans Stop Pain with a Plant: Findings from a Survey of Medical Cannabis Users". Respondents reported using the illicit market and out-of-state programs in order to secure medical cannabis. The limited conditions list is excluding millions of Texans from participating, and the THC cap further hinders their ability to participate because several studies show that THC levels need to be above 10-15% to provide relief. Texans and Texas Veterans are not looking to get "high" we want to find relief. No veteran should have to be forced to seek medical cannabis through illicit means or through an out-of-state program. I sincerely appreciate your support in adding PTSD to the qualifying conditions list, but I ask that you reconsider the THC cap that you are proposing. In 2019 I was accepted into the first class, of the nation's first Master of Science in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics with the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and will be graduating this May. I am more than happy to provide you with studies to back up the need to remove the THC cap altogether. The physician and the patient should be the ones to decide because everybody is different when it comes to medical cannabis, what may work for me may not work for someone else. Once again thank you!

Sabina Neal, Exec VP

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self. Business owner

Canyon Lake, TX

Benefit of THC HOW ABOUT FIRST ORGASM?

79 year old registered Republican

Trey Walker, Mr.

Self

Bastrop, TX

When it comes to the medicinal usage of marijuana in any form. I find it not only self serving of those in our government to deny people of this, but incredibly irresponsible. Those who seek our marijuana for medical purposes should not be punished but praised. When we look at the opioid problems facing America today, we can see the danger and addictive nature of these drugs prescribed by our doctors. Marijuana on the other hand regardless of potency in relation to THC has none of the physical addiction issues we see with opioid medicines. It is mine and the majority of Texans that agree we must have reform relating to all uses of marijuana, however this can be our small start to the bigger picture.

Romana Harding

Myself

Cleveland, TX

I am a 100% disabled Navy veteran. I support his hill with an exception that PTSD access should be for ALL Texans. I am a 3rd generation sailor, and we served for our country and fellow citizens, not ourselves.

I have been diagnosed by the VA with Complex PTSD. It is from surviving 4 years of sexual assault, rapes and beatings. The VA relocated me to Texas for treatment at the Wisner Center in Houston. I am originally from medical cannabis state where my VA doctor preferred I use cannabis for my best and safest medicine. As my VA doc pointed out, it does NOT cause any toxicity in my organs. Nor can I overdose on it. I have shattered bones in my ankle, wrist and jaw from the beatings. I would be on a lot of pain killers. Cannabis helps me not need any psychotropics or opioids. But 5% is NOT enough. In my medical state I kept a journal on all the different cannabis kinds and how they helped me. I learned that 20% brought my anxiety way down. It also helped with the night terrors of being choked repeatedly into unconsciousness.

I have dear friends who have been in all sorts of traumatic events, they deserve access to this medicine as much we as veterans so.

Every year Texas veterans are dying in pain, from toxic pills. Many of us like myself have used cannabis as an exit from drugs and alcohol. Alcohol killed my 3 brothers and both my parents I continue to use cannabis and I am alive and functioning.

All life is precious. I pray you hear and help us live a better quality of life. free to medicate and free to grow this plant. My VA docs have told me how therapeutic gardening is. In my medical state I was able to grow six plants. It was wonderfully fulfilling

Thank you for your service, and thank you for hearing our voices and doing the right thing for us.

Aja Van Dyke, Ms

Self, disabled veteran

San Antonio, TX

As a severely disabled veteran with Complex regional pain syndrome and PTSD, I approve of this bill. I've seen how medical cannabis has helped fellow veterans in other states, and would also like to use this medicine. Thank you for considering this bill, and for reading my testimony.

Duncan Murphy

Self

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Weatherford, TX

Dear State of Texas - I support HB 1535

I have been living with epilepsy from age 9 to now 36.

As a supporter of Medical Cannabis to say the least, I have been living in fear that this Great State of Texas will never realize what benefits Medical Cannabis can do for patients suffering as I do from medical conditions that cannabis could greatly improve daily life without retribution due to current state and federal laws. Not only Epilepsy but many other conditions that cannabis can replace current "Prescription Medication" which have a very negative impact on health. Currently the epilepsy medications I take "alone" carry very negative impacts on mental and physical to daily life. Cannabis has been listed as a schedule 1 narcotic for far too long and it is time to fix the negative perception that has been for so long programmed into the mind of americans.

I support HB 1535 and further support decriminalization of this plant. Thank you House Committee for working to help Texas move forward and not backwards.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak freely on this matter.

Patrick Redford

Self

1208 Regency Ln Tyler, Texas 75703, TX

I'm in support of the Legislation Bill HB 1535. In hope that an expansion of the Compassionate Use program to add chronic pain. I suffer daily from chronic pain and Cannabis has helped with lowing the pain. I believe that Doctors should be issuing doses because the doctor knows the patient. I really do not support recreational use because I feel it should totally be used for medical only.

Carol Collins

Self, Retired

Highland Village, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Michael Stapell, Masters in Public Administration

Retired State Of Texas Master Certified Police Officer, Firefighter and Licensed Paramedic (Self)

Dallas, TX

This bill is a small step in the right direction. PTSD from any source whether military; first responders; or those who suffered from long term domestic violence or tragic events should not be restricted to treatment choices which includes an addiction. Many who suffer from this condition utilize alcohol or opioids to mask or treat their symptoms (unsuccessfully). Any condition which can be made more tolerable by Cannabis should be on the list, if their present treatment options are addictive, as Cannabis is not addictive. There are no 12 step programs for Cannabis! Why, because it's not addictive. My belief is that you decision makers have done a great disservice to anyone with a condition that can benefit from its use. You need to expand the list of conditions; remove the THC limits; and expand the routes of administration and allow physicians to treat their patients in the manner which they deem appropriate. You have done such a lousy job on this Compassionate Use Act, for reasons no one understands other than optics. In its present form it really has been characterized as the Uncompassionate Use Act as it has left out millions from benefiting from it and limited access to the point that the 3 dispensaries cannot profit as they should from this business.

The product really needs to be legalized, regulated and taxed. By doing this, the only thing that will change is the cash flow. You and your laws are not keeping the public from accessing or smoking weed. Keeping Cannabis illegal does nothing more than support cartels (how's that for optics!?). Let's legalize it and incentivize law enforcement to enforce the tax law on this product.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Bootleg marijuana should be impounded tested (by a state lab for safety) then wholesaled to dispensaries for distribution with the state and the impounding agencies sharing in the proceeds. Simultaneously the people of the state will benefit from seizing cartel product and enforce more vigorously the drugs laws that matter because of the harm they cause in addictions, overdoses, and deaths. We still have an opioid problem in this country. Access to Cannabis has been proven to mitigate some of the opioid use and abuse. That reason alone is enough to expand the Compassionate Use Act to mirror more closely the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's law with 23 conditions.

I know the House and Senate are not solely to blame for just how screwed up this law is. I'm a republican and I will gladly call out Dan Patrick for his ignorance on this matter. His list of donors includes the alcoholic beverage industry which does stand to lose some market share if the right laws are passed in Texas. No one has ever overdosed on and died smoking marijuana, unlike alcohol and opioids. No one has become addicted to marijuana like those who are addicted to cigarettes; alcohol and prescription pain killers.

I'm wondering what side of this issue you would be on if it was 1933 and you were voting to end prohibition. End the hypocrisy!

Christopher Redfearn, Owner

Dr. R & R's

Houston, TX

HB 1535, HB 3948, HB 1086 are all strong attempts at forward progress in the State of Texas to help enforce state rights while pushing back at a federal laws, whose laws we now recognize in 2021, as racist, bigoted, and unjust. Those "laws" which I speak of were written into Federal law through the Marijuana Tax Act and in our own Texas legislature whose staunch beliefs have attempted to mask the cries of it victims, in the name of Justice and Liberty.

To the best of my knowledge I am third generation Texan born in (hEll) Paso and relocated for work to Houston later in life. I understand the laws that govern us and have lived long-enough, thank God, to see myself on both sides of the fence. I believe the advances we make through these House Bills need to be light years ahead of where they are...This is Texas, Go Big or Go Home. We Want Full Legalization.

The revenue and stability that Cannabis would bring to this state by changing social programs, mitigating the arrest of all persons, and the prevention of increased use in our social welfare programs due to efforts made to re-educate, re-form and decriminalization.

Our democracy, its foundation was established as a social experiment...we are still very much in that experiment, there is no expiration date. We have learned the experimentation of criminalizing persons for any amount of possession, distribution, and consumption of Cannabis Sativa L. as it is written in law, is a huge waste of tax dollars and people rights. So how do we fix it? We end it.

It is possible to legalize Cannabis in the state of Texas and show your constituents you are listening. Private Companies/Industries, like Big Oil, will normally drug test, but freedom of choice and to not be found criminal for a God-given plant, is not too much to ask of our elected officials, to remove all criminal-legislative restrictions. In short, show the world, Texas is not a racist f\*\*\*ing state and Legalize Cannabis, remove all Criminal Penalties, and expunge all non-violent Cannabis related offenses regardless of amount. That is a step in the right direction.

It is possible for our state elected Officials to do something, and do it quickly, with efficiency and tact.

-Christopher Katz Redfearn, Texan/Business Owner

Leah Patrick

Support Team TAYLOR for Brain Tumor Awareness

Liberty Hill, TX

Good Afternoon, and thank you for your support.

My name is Leah Patrick and I've grown up in Texas. My son, TAYLOR , was diagnosed with brain tumors 6 times in 12 years. 4 brain surgeries, radiation and chemo. I've battled Lyme Disease , osteoporosis, degenerate disc disease, multiple surgeries from a

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

car accident many years ago that almost took my leg. Chronic pain & spasticity are my nemesis. Stress is too. I got out of pain management with the use of cannabis because fentanyl patches were killing me. CBD, CBG, and all Cannabinoids from Cannabis can help treat so many illnesses that will help improve quality of life. Watching my son suffer, asking Drs for help, battling insurance for chemo, and it has caused PTSD in both of us.

Cannabis should have no limits on the amount of THC needed for cancer remission, pain management, tumor reduction, PTSD, seizures, depression, anxiety, and spasticity. My son's Neuro oncologist wouldn't give him plant medicine, but prescribed Marinol for him. We want real plant medicine that we don't have to worry about overdosing on. We are law abiding citizens. I'm involved in our local community, active with advocates at our Capitol for legalization of cannabis in Texas. It's time. Before my son runs out of time. Please! I'm just a mom trying to save our lives under very challenging circumstances. Every state around has a medical cannabis program, with dispensaries that deliver their medicines, or legalized it, so people can feel safe knowing that it's quality plant medicine. Please let Texas patients & caregivers, grow their own cannabis too! Limiting THC is a death sentence. Texans deserve so much more! Please help save our lives, and millions of others, that need natural medicines over pills that kill. It helps Alzheimer's too! I don't have the capability of moving us to a medical state to become a refugee. I can barely afford rent now after all the medical bills. I want my son to live, and I want to be out of pain, naturally. Cannabis. Legalize it already. Please! We're not criminals! Give us safe access and legalize Cannabis with no THC limits.

Thank you!

TXHempHub  
Trinity Hill Organics  
Liberty Hill Holistics  
HempFit  
Support Team TAYLOR for Brain Tumor Awareness  
Lyme Warriors

Sincerely,  
Leah Patrick,  
CEO at caregiver for my son battling brain tumor cancer.

Melissa Noriega  
Self disabled  
Denton, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Kathryn Folger  
Self, Retired  
Corinth, TX

I wholeheartedly support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration!

Andrew Svoboda  
self  
Pflugerville, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Charles Martinez, Mr  
Self/ medical personnel  
Arlington, TX

I am for expanding the use of medical marijuana. But we should completely decriminalize marijuana for recreational use as well. As a veteran marijuana has helped with PTSD in myself and with other veterans. But it's not just veterans that experience PTSD. I believe marijuana should be legal for both medical and recreational use similar to Colorado or New Mexico.

Leah R LoneBear

Self

Liverpool, TX

Doctors need to be the ones to decide on dose caps and they need protection from the DEA. Patients need protection from the DEA and from losing ANY constitutional right including 2A. I am thrilled that PTSD for Vets is being put on the table but how can you call it compassionate use when you don't allow anyone else who deals with PTSD from accessing same. That is discriminatory

Wanda Lawson, Mrs

Self

SCROGGINS, TX

Hello. I am a 68 year young TCUP patient here in Texas.

Words cannot describe the relief I have experienced since becoming part of the TCUP program. I have health issues that are lessening with use of THC, even though our very limited diagnosis qualifications are not all inclusive.

I support marijuana reform legislation. Thank you for your service and consideration.

Wendy Hinds

American citizen

Wylie, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your work on this topic.

Victor Glaviano

Ssnf

San Antonio, TX

I am a combat decorated veteran of Afghanistan, Counter-Narcotics operations in El Salvador and other operations which over a 23 year period have caused me several injuries, physical and mental. I have ruptured my C2, C3, L4, L5 and SI vertebrae, several concussions, the loss of several teeth, surgical repair of both hands, bladder cancer, TBI and PTSD. All resulting from my 23 years of service to the nation, to which I sacrificed my health obviously but in addition I've lost my marriage, several jobs and currently 2 months behind on my mortgage. When I returned home the military doctors, acting in good faith I'm sure, because of the injuries to my vertebrae and the constant pain they prescribed me Oxycodone, in fact 3 months supply at a time without seeing a doctor. I have to wonder if I had access to Marijuana as an 80% disabled veteran 12 years ago where my life would be today? I know Marijuana does not have the absolute horrible addictive properties of opiates and especially Oxycodone, which the withdrawals and cravings are unbearable. Would i still have my wife whom I loved, my mental and physical health in a better situation. Perhaps I would have a great career, I have a BS and an MA so it's not due to lack of experience and education. I would like the opportunity to legally use medical Marijuana in conjunction with and under the prescription from my physician. I am completely afraid of any psycholo-tropic medications that such as SSRIs and others. Texas has the opportunity to perhaps lead the nation in research and care with our world class medical facilities. As a person who's served the country faithfully, never had more than a couple of speeding tickets in over 35 years of driving and no misdemeanors or felonies, I hardly present a risk of being a major criminal or drug lord. In addition to the military injuries, I am also a cancer survivor around 16 years ago in my

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

mid-30s. I ask at this time that the State of Texas support me and many others in a natural plant that has far less side effects and socioeconomic effects as alcohol, antidepressants, opiates or anti-anxiety medications and reportedly as effective in many cases, in the spirit of exploration, right to try and medical research/breakthroughs please consider the passage of this bill, HB 1535 for the compassionate use and prescription of medical Marijuana or cannabis. Thank you for your attention and leadership on this issue.

Very Respectfully,  
Victor J Glaviano  
Senior Chief Master at Arms, USN (Ret)

April Martinez, Mrs.  
Staff Sergeant (Ret), US Army  
Killeen, TX

My name is April Martinez, I am a Veteran from Killeen, TX. I'd like to express my support for HB 1535, hopefully impressing upon you the need to also support this bill and passing it to allow for further consideration.

In May 2007, I returned from a 16-month deployment to Afghanistan. Shortly thereafter I started to experience headaches that went from sporadic to chronic in a relatively short period. By November 2011, the Army had exhausted all means to help me and I was medically retired. I have been under the care of multiple Headache Specialists (Neurologist) since then.

I have been through DHE treatments, Botox, nerve blocks, and almost all medication available to migraine patients, some requiring and trips to the ER because of side effects. All did little to block the pain and the injections on my already sensitive neck and head caused escalated pain for days following the procedure.

Pain is a large part of my condition, but not the only migraine symptom that impacts my life daily. I experience cognitive dysfunction that ebbs and flows depending on my migraine state at the moment. I can have trouble finding words or finishing thoughts and brain fog is common. I am sensitive to things such as light, sound, and scents which can make it difficult to be in some environments. I experience some variation of headache or migraine 24/7. I don't remember what it's like to be pain-free, even on the best days my pain level does not drop below a 4/10. I have not been able to be employable since 2011 due to my condition.

We were living in WA in 2015 where my husband was serving his final tour before retiring from the Army. My pain was getting the best of me and the thought of living the rest of my life in constant pain seemed pointless. My provider suggested I look into medicinal cannabis. I tried a liquid form that I could measure out precisely and add to water. It was life-changing, within the first week I had a renewed sense of hope. I was able to complete household tasks or taking a walk to the park with the kids with very little pain. Not only did cannabis help my pain, but it also helped my cognitive function. I was able to read a book for the first time in years without much difficulty. It gave me enormous hope and confidence that one day I would be able to have a fulfilling life once again.

We returned to TX in 2015 and my access to the only medicine that has ever help significantly was cut off. After getting off 7 different preventive and rescue medications, I was now having to return to taking pills in an attempt to control pain. HB 1535 would help patients like me who have failed to find relief with other medications. The increase in THC to 5% would increase the therapeutic advantages of this medicine for those like myself who are aided by both THC and CBD for pain relief and functionality. I implore you to pass this bill and give Texas with these debilitating conditions a chance at living a better life.

gerardo contreras  
Humans/Earth  
Kerrville, TX

Hello,

I understand we are taking small steps to get this done for the patients that benefit from this plant, but all I ask is try harder... Veterans, Elders, and anybody else that benefit from this plant seem to have no say in this until you decide to give us something to vote on and once you do it's only one small step.. this is nature we are talking about here.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Thank you,  
Try harder.

Bobby Yanes  
Self  
Killeen, TX

I support this legislation. I am Active Duty Military with chronic back pain...we need this legalized. I currently take a prescribed chemical cocktail for pain management and I'm consistently giving blood samples to prevent organ damage...we need help, we need options, we need this. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Hailey Pate  
Self - software developer  
Austin, TX

I support removing the existing qualifications required for accessing cannabis because I believe qualifying conditions should be determined by a person's doctor. Also, I believe persons with PTSD deserve access to cannabis for treatment, not just veterans.

I also support eliminating the arbitrary cap on THC.

Melanie Adams  
Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy  
Fort Worth, TX

Thank you for hearing this Bill. I am a Fort Worth Texas Native, care giver, Master Certified/Cannabis Training University w/30yrs experience with cannabis, and a medical patient seeking less toxic alternatives to NSAIDS, gabapentoids, benzodiazepines, sedatives, opioids and so many other necessary pharmaceuticals.

My mother is a forty- year career dedicated retired Professor of Nursing from TCU with clinical experience across the entire spectrum of nursing and medical professions. At 70, has come to support my advocacy and the natural adjunct therapies found in cannabis while realizing that dosing is individualized and many patients require significantly higher doses than others. She does not support arbitrary or low THC caps. (Her only current choice in Tx is opioids, which will lead to her complete renal failure. She, and countless patients with varying diagnoses need full spectrum cannabis and concentrates potency as a substitute for opioids. Her doctor should determine what potency/quantity/duration of use for cannabis she requires.)

Cannabis is safe, effective herbal medicine,  
especially when prescribed as adjunct therapy to pharmaceuticals and with safety regulations in place.

Most pertinent is the complex nature of cannabis as a superfood, nutrient and supplement. We must nourish our endocannabinoid systems with the most nutrient dense plant in the kingdom . Raw cannabis consumption has zero psychoactive effects.

In addition to manufacturing, we will need small home gardens (9-12 plants) to utilize the full spectrum super antioxidants, nutrients and healing properties of raw cannabis greens that gently relieve, uplift and support healing processes and the long term management of care. We need to grow our own gardens and consume/enjoy as any other healing herb.

With autoimmune disease, whole plant medical cannabis works with 2AG to mediate the immune system.

Hemp and low THC cannabis is like a baby aspirin compared to fentanyl, opioids, benzodiazepines & most high dose symptom management pharmaceuticals. Arbitrary caps to any medicine can cause undue suffering and are absolutely pointless to patients already 'higher' than anything cannabis might offer.



Full THC is the only substitute for opioid addictions, chronic or terminal diseases, surgery recovery, many high dose opioid conditions and whatever our physicians deem, weighing risk/benefit analysis.

MLB, NBA, NFL and most professional sports have embraced cannabis for its health and recovery benefits, particularly as a neuroprotectant.

ALL of our Veterans deserve access to cannabis.

ALL CPTSD/PTSD patients need cannabis. (Not limited to vets.)

Physician Determined

77% of Texas Voters are in favor of full THC cannabis. Please honor our voices.

Investors are waiting to infuse our economy. Please expand TCUP and encourage local medical dispensary licenses for ease of patient access AND/OR home delivery.

Thank you! Melanie Adams

Loretta Buster

Austin TX

Austin, TX

Please consider this for patients like myself. Thank You

Christopher Grisolia

Self - Project Manager - Commercial Construction

Krum, TX

I support HB1535, although I fear it still does not go far enough. I lost a son to epilepsy in 2016 because of his simple desire to NOT break these laws that should have never existed in the first place. I fear this improvement to the TCUP program still does not go far enough. Lawmakers are not doctors, and as such should not be making decisions about medical conditions or treatments. We should let doctors and their patients decide on what part and what potency is used where ALL medications are concerned. We should let doctors and patients decide what conditions are treatable with what medications, not lawmakers.

I have but one goal left in life after losing my son. That is to see to it that no other parent has to endure the needless loss of a child due to laws based in lies. It took me losing a child to open my eyes to the reality of medical cannabis. Do not be like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this subject.

Cecil Scroggins

Self/Retired

North Richland Hills, TX

I strongly support expanding medical marijuana in Texas. I have suffered from severe Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS), for years, and believe I could benefit from the opportunity to have a medical professional treat my condition with medical cannabis and hopefully reduce the ten pills of strong prescription medications I take daily to try to control my RLS. I request that doctors decide the dosing instead of this legislation restricting dosing, that independent laboratories are authorized to test a compassionate use program, and that doctors and patients both are protected from adverse actions while participating in a sensible, compassionate medical marijuana program. Thank you for your service to our District and the State of Texas.

Patti Ray

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self

Grand Saline, TX

I strongly support this bill and encourage all law makers to have an open mind when considering it.

Amanda Alexander

Self

Amarillo, TX

I support this bill

Becky Specia, Ms.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Patients should not be denied cannabis treatment because it is illegal in Texas.

Jennifer Asper

Self

Katy, TX

Please expand the Texas medical marijuana law to include chronic pain and allow any medical doctor to prescribe or recommend. Also please increase the THC limits to be comparable to medical marijuana laws in other states. I should not have to commit a crime to treat my fibromyalgia effectively. I was able to discontinue opioid medications I had been on for 15 years by switching to marijuana. It is so much safer for patients and is a natural medicine. I don't want to have to move to another state away from my family in order to legally treat my fibromyalgia.

Stephanie McCown

Self/homemaker

Lubbock, TX

Medical Cannabis use to treat veterans suffering from PTSD is a life saving treatment. Veterans are suffering and taking their lives at higher rates than ever. Cannabis helps veterans sleep without nightmares or dreaming of any kind, reduces anxiety, depression, rage, suicidal thoughts, and has minimal side effects unlike currently approved pharmaceuticals that make veterans numb and not feel anything at all. These pharmaceuticals have awful side effects that cause suicide, impotence, sleep walking, and panic attacks. These medications are killing veterans everyday they do not cure the problem they numb it and let other issues arise. We need to take care of our troops please. I have lost to many friends to suicide because the VA is not giving Veterans the help they deserve and need. Having access to medical cannabis and being allowed to grow there own medical without having to involve the VA will change millions of lives, positively effect family dynamics in the veteran community and save veterans from suicidal tendency. Please look at the evidence cannabis is a miracle medical for PTSD in veterans. It gives Veterans a reason to live again, Texas claims to take of of Veterans well I'm asking Texas today to take care of their emotionally sick tormented Veterans don't let them die, cannabis will save there lives. Let them grow there own medical and get better.

Jorge Longoria

Innovation Compassionate Care LLC

Garland, TX

I fully support this bill.

Rachel Moreno

Self

Schertz, TX

I fully support medicinal cannabis progress in TX!

Brad Byrd

Texan born and raised

Princeton, TX

I am 52 i suffer from Chronic Pain in my neck and back from a car wreck all the Doctors do is give me pain meds well after 10 years of taking pain meds they don't help any more and just make me sick.

Cannabis helps to relaxes my neck and back and i can get more done around the house and not in pain. Please do the right thang and pass cannabis in the grate state of Texas Thank You.

Laura Adams

Self/retired teacher

Ft. Worth, TX

I support this legislation. Cannabis has proven to be an effective pain reliever.

Giancarlo Locandro

Myself

Houston, TX

I'm a US Veteran who served my country for nearly a decade. I have been diagnosed with PTSD as well as other mental health disorders. I fought hard for my country but pains me to live in such a regressive state as this one. Not only does cannabis help me with many of my disorders, but I get punished for doing so. Bravo Texas for for staying dug into the past and not being able to move forward. I for one am disgraced to call myself a Texan, even having lived here most of my life. Please allow cannabis for veterans not the only with PTSD but other mental health disorders as well. For once please take a step forward. Thank you.

Camille Wright

Self

Mesquite, TX

I come before you today as a Wife, Mother, and United States Army Veteran. Asking that you seriously look at decriminalizing marijuana for medical use.

I went into the army one way and came out not the same. I am not a combat veteran, but I did experience trauma. I am physically and mentally impaired. I suffer from Major Depressive disorder and Degenerative Disease.

The doctors have prescribed numerous medications, which have not helped. I don't get the same results as others do from taking medications. Finally, a doctor said that my body doesn't metabolize medicines this is why I don't feel any effects or it makes my body feel worse.

I had a doctor friend reach out and ask if I had heard of Cannabidiol, at the time no I hadn't and did some research to find out

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

what it was, I was like Dr. such and such wants me to take Marijuana, like most I believed all the myths about marijuana. It's the devils' drug etc. Doing research I found out that the cannabis plant has two species Hemp on the male side and Marijuana on the Female side.

One gets you healthy and the other gets you high. The male side Hemp (CBD) has health benefits and the female side gets you high. I also found out that once it was illegal not to grow cannabis, the first bible was made of hemp, the flag was once made of hemp, you can look up and see all the Positive benefits this plant that God put on this earth has.

In my research I also found out that from 1850 to 1936 Cannabis was used as the primary medicine for more than 100 separate illnesses and diseases in the US.

I have been taking CBD and some THC for the past two years and have noticed the benefits in my body. I am able to focus, concentrate. My chronic pain is there but I can tolerate it more.

I am not against medicine, they do serve a purpose, incorporate different alternatives for people to make a decision.

Please consider legalizing this natural plant for medicinal use for me and other veterans who are suffering, mentally and physically.

Sincerely,

Camille M. Wright

Michael Delahoussaye

Self

Houston, TX

I suffer from chronic back pain and would benefit from this bill

Amy Rhoads

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I have suffered from chronic low back pain with crippling neuropathy for 15 years and I have FINALLY found something that allows me to be the 43 year mother of a young daughter that I should be. The pain and neuropathy are so much better to withstand with the help of medical marijuana.

Jessica Van Schaick, Dr.

My son

Keller, TX

I am the parent of a kiddo who uses medical marijuana to help manage his symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

My son, William, has severe non-verbal autism. With ASD comes behaviors, and sometimes those behaviors are severe. William also has ADHD making him extremely impulsive. Prior to using medical marijuana, William was on prescription pharmaceutical ADHD medications to help control those impulses and was often aggressive. When William started using a high dose CBD product, after the compassionate use program was approved for ASD, we were eventually able to remove the other medication. In essence, the use of CBD was able to reduce the pharmaceutical he was on that had sedative side effects, and his aggressive behaviors were significantly reduced.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

It's difficult to know that other Texans who could benefit from this life-changing medicine are either restricted from doing so or are having a hard time meeting their prescription needs due to the state's current cap on THC. We would love the opportunity as well to use a higher THC product so to see if the combination of higher THC with CBD would increase the benefits of this life-changing product. We still have plenty of behaviors to conquer. We would love for our son to eliminate all of his aggression, become more verbal, and have a more enjoyable life. We want the opportunity to give this to him and to try higher THC products as the current limits are very low.

Texas remains one of the most restrictive medical marijuana markets in the country. Doctors do not have the autonomy to determine when a condition or circumstance warrants a medical marijuana prescription. Medicinal products are restricted to 0.5% THC by weight, forcing many patients to self-administer large, hard-to-digest amounts to match their prescriptions.

For these reasons, I am asking you to support House Bill 1535 this session, which aims to:

- Expand the list of medical conditions and patients that qualify for low-THC medical cannabis to include all stages of cancer, acute or chronic pain for which physicians would otherwise prescribe opioids, and veterans suffering from PTSD.
- Grant access to low-THC medical cannabis for patients with medical conditions approved for research programs that the patients are receiving treatment under and allow access to patients with debilitating medical conditions designated by the Department of State Health Services.
- Increase the THC limit to 5% by weight, giving physicians the ability to administer the proper dosage for a patient's condition while reducing the side effects of ingesting too much carrying oil.
- Establish one or more institutional review boards to evaluate and approve proposed research programs to study the medical use of low-THC cannabis in treating a medical condition.

Kimberly Phipps-Nichol

self

Houston, TX

We need to expand TCUP beyond even this proposed bill, but this is a start. I am in favor of research programs, but let's make sure they're equitable and just.

PTSD is suffered by many more than just our veterans, and so the diagnosis of PTSD as a viable condition for TCUP should be expanded to more than veterans.

We really need to remove the ridiculously low THC cap that accompanies TCUP presently. Let the physicians decide the appropriate dosing.

Legislators have no business practicing medicine and should allow all conditions that physicians believe should benefit from medical cannabis to have access to it.

Having moved here from a medical cannabis state, I was able to control my migraines I've had since I was 5, endometriosis since I was 15, and chronic pain since I was 17 due to industrial and auto accidents with medical cannabis. Now I live in TX which means I either suffer, have to take pharmaceuticals with side effects often worse than the condition they're supposed to treat, or be a law breaker.

C'mon TEXAS, get with the times. We need to legalize medical cannabis with NO THC Limits and no restrictive conditions requirements. Every state around us is going to benefit from being on the ball with this while TX suffers and spends/looses millions if not billions in annual revenue.

Kory Zipperer

Self

Onalaska, TX

I am a disabled veteran suffering from chronic pain due to a non-combat related injury while on duty. I personally avoid pain killers or other opiates unless absolutely necessary. I would like the option of medical marijuana to deal with said chronic pain. Also, even though I am a veteran myself, I feel limiting access to the medical program to only veterans is unnecessary. Every Texan should have equal access to all forms of legal medical treatment. Thank you for the consideration.

Jessica Davis

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self

Houston, TX

I am expressing support for this bill. Thank You.

Albert Martinez

Self

Houston, TX

Dear members of our great state of Texas legislature. As a Parkinsons patients i can attest the efficacy of medical marijuana to ease my daily struggles. I ask to consider passing this bill to further reach out to others who suffer with other illnesses and to consider increase the THC level to better dose the level of severity in each unique patient. Thank you very much. Sincerely Mr. Albert Martinez

Nadine Beslow

Self/Disabled

Fort Worth, TX

Nadine Beslow - 41, Fort Worth, Texas

I am a Stage 3 Cervical Cancer Survivor and currently now handling Fibromyalgia. I relocated here last year from Nevada. I was on their medical and it was great for me. After all the treatments and medication, my body is in rough shape. Some days I am in so much pain that I cannot walk or so exhausted that I cannot get off of the couch or my bed. Cannabis has been AMAZING. With my prescription I am now able to start to slowly get my life back. I can walk 2 miles a day again. I can sleep at night and stay asleep. Cannabis has relieved ALL of my symptoms: Insomnia, Exhaustion, Neuropathy, Migraine, Muscle Soreness, Body tightness, Menopause, Anxiety and depression.

It's great for 2 things. 1 - it is natural. I have put so much synthetic medication/opioids to manage my symptoms post cancer treatment. I have been on such an array of different types and the side effects are not good on many. They also are not as effective. I am a Vegan and drink only water or tea. I like things natural and for my body to heal and be maintained as naturally as possible. I also do not want to have any risk of dependence as with opioids! I would physically suffer and not take pain medication because I was so worried about dependency. This caused an endless cycle of depression, anxiety & insomnia. I would take a prescription sleeping pill twice a week just to get a good night of sleep. But the sleep is not a refreshing one, it's a zombie medicated one.

2 - How well it works. I've been on the Texas Compassionate Care program for almost a month and the changes in my health are moving in a positive direction. I want to establish that before I received my medical card in Nevada for Cancer that I believed in the stigma of Cannabis. I thought it was for dirty losers that were hippies living in vans and not contributing to society. I'm far from my original stigma. Due to my health, I had to retire at the age of 36 after 21 years as a Vice President for a major company managing 1,900 team members. I was on the Board of Directors of the Make A Wish Foundation in Southern Nevada and the Las Vegas Bowl committee before I relocated to Texas. I outright own my own home and vehicle. I am fortunate to have worked as hard as I did in my earlier years to be able to retire at 36 and focus on my health. I'm able to finally start functioning as a normal member of society. I am not ashamed that I use cannabis to manage my symptoms because IT WORKS and it is NATURAL. It works better for me than synthetic medication! I will be working with my medical team to now start eliminating some of my current medication - Hopefully 5 out of the 9 prescribed daily pills. Cannabis is FREEING me from synthetic prescriptions!

I really hope that Texas continues to grow in this area for the patients that need it. I can already say that the program today is far better than Nevada's. I am so happy to further advocate if needed. Thank you!

Rylen Kirk, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Hello,

Medical cannabis has completely taken me off of prescription and over the counter sleeping medication. Before I was taking a bottle of NyQuil and Tylenol pm just to sleep at night. It was getting out of hand until my girlfriend recommended medical cannabis. Compassionate cultivation has helped me get completely off of over the counter sleeping medication and my prescription sleeping medicine. I'm getting the best sleep I've ever gotten in my entire life because of this medicine.

Courtney Adams

High Ways Inc

Houston, TX

How much will the license cost in Texas

Janette Mills, Mrs

Self / totally and permanently disabled

Shamrock, TX

Hello my name is Jan Mills And I live in Shamrock I have rheumatoid arthritis fibromyalgia type two diabetes chronic fatigue osteoarthritis diabetic neuropathy Brain fog and the multiple little things that go along with all those. I moved to Texas three years ago I moved here from Colorado when I lived in Colorado I used the medical marijuana I had a medical marijuana license it was approved by a doctor for the pain and the fatigue the the neuropathy and it worked it helped a lot now that I live in Texas so I can buy CBD but it's not the same people with chronic pain should be allowed to use the plant that God put on this earth and I truly feel that God put everything on this earth for a reason fortunately people are finally realizing that it's actually a medicinal plant it's really good if you have anxiety it helps with depression it helps with appetite I don't eat hardly anymore I might eat once a day and that's not healthy for me but I have no appetite and smoke in the medical marijuana actually helped my appetite So I implore To please very seriously consider making medical marijuana available to chronic pain sufferers marijuana also can be used to help people get off of addictive drugs like cocaine or meth or heroin I am 61 years old and everybody says that today's marijuana is so much more potent than what it was back in the 70s but it's not it's just about the same in this day and age with the opioid crisis as it is this is a good alternative to opioids I was on opioids I decided myself to get off of them I was also on a benzo and I got off I got off of it by myself when marijuana became legal in Colorado I weaned myself off and I started smoking medical marijuana and again it helped

I want to thank you for your time in reading this and please pass medical marijuana use for chronic pain sufferers and others that could really benefit from it thank you to all and have a wonderful day

Jared MCGovern

Self

Breckenridge, TX

In 2014 I was involved in an elevator accident onboard my ship while on deployment. The VA has diagnosed me with a Traumatic Brain Injury, migraines, vertigo, degenerative arthristis of the spine, and Bipolar Disorder with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder related to my service. When I left the service I had great opportunities but had a very difficult time adjusting to civilian life. I had a good job, a wife, and was a new homeowner, but still I was in pain and very depressed. Within a year I lost my job, foreclosed on my house, and got a divorce. After a suicide attempt a fellow vet recommended I try a little marijuana and see if that helped.

My life changed that day. It relieved the pain in my back, lessened my anxiety, and eased the tension so I could finally relax. One of the worst and most prevalent symptoms of all of my disabilities is that it is very difficult to sleep. Marijuana is the only thing that I have found that helps me sleep and doesn't have detrimental side effects or leave me groggy in the morning. I have a regiment of cannabis that I use throughout the day to treat various ailments, and high THC cannabis is a large part of that for the evening. When I don't have cannabis my wife can tell the difference right away. She has actually arranged it for me in the past

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

because she doesn't like the person I am without it.

While I hope this bill passes with flying colors, I hope in the future there will be no THC limit and everyone will have access to this plant. 5% THC is barely enough to do any good, so most people who need cannabis will not use the Compassionate Use Program. Instead, they will continue to source their medicine from other states or from the black market risking incarceration. This bill is a step in the right direction, but if you really want to help veterans and Texans, then you would legalize freedom, and remove the THC cap.

Marcella Marmor, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill is not needed. Most Texans support safe, legal abortions. Women will die needlessly, if you do this.

Arturo Zalduondo

Self

San Antonio, TX

14 years in renal cell carcinoma. Refused chemotherapy and did my own with cannabis oil. If that doesn't beat some sense in you guys I don't know what will....

Lee Vernon

First Responder Fuel LLC

Liberty Hill, TX

Hello. I first want to thank you for allowing me to leave input regarding HB1535. I am a 30 year retired firefighter/medic that currently owns First Responder Fuel CBD. I developed a THC free product for first responders, military veterans, and health care workers to assist with various medical issues that we deal with due to our profession. I would desperately ask that you include first responders and health care provider's in the compassionate use act for PTSD and for cancer treatments. First responders and medical professionals rank 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th in succession behind military when it comes to PTSD. I myself have dealt with PTSD and I also have a long list of friends that have or currently dealing with PTSD that are first responders. I have also lost several friends to suicide due to PTSD and opioids when they became addicted to the medication given to treat PTSD. With First Responder Fuel we have been able to make a substantial difference in the lives of many first responders with just CBD. But there are many that need more than CBD and THC is a proven chemical that can address so many of the issues with PTSD. The fact that it is non addictive and can be used in conjunction with therapy is essential for the longevity of mental health with first responders.

Many first responders (myself included) had to retire due to bodily injury and suffer daily from chronic pain. CBD does help, but THC makes a huge difference in eliminating chronic pain due to job related injuries that can not be remedied with surgery. The dosages needed for PTSD and chronic pain in order to be effective have been proven to be at ranges of 15mg-30mg, not .5% At .5 you are essentially dealing with CBD and there are times when that is definitely not enough. I have spent the last two years traveling the United States helping first responders (active/retired) and have found in states where full medical grade cannabis is legal, that the rate of suicide is less than states where it is not. I have also found that for retired responders, quality of life is also substantially improved where medical cannabis can be purchased to deal with chronic pain. Both of the above leads to less issues with addiction to opioid's, alcohol, depression and sleep issues. Throughout our careers, just as military, we subject our bodies and mental health to extreme and horrific scenes on a daily basis. Those scenes over time lead many to turn to pharmaceutical drug abuse and alcohol which destroys families and careers and even lives in some instances. With medical cannabis, help and improvement is dramatically improved. But again, the levels needed for therapeutic benefits needs to be much higher than the .5 currently allowed. PLUS first responders should be included.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and as a retired first responder I hope you consider including us as well as raising the level allowed so that we can get the relief and help we need. Sincerely, Lee Vernon

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Darrell Wingert, CWO5

Self

Manvel, TX

As a combat dav I support this bill! Cannabis has helped me with depression, suicidal thoughts, ptsd, and delivered from alcoholism.

James Wallgren

self

Buda, TX

When I was in high school here in Texas, I suffered a major spinal cord injury during football practice and have been in a wheelchair ever since. For almost 40 years, I have been treating symptoms of my quadriplegia including spasticity and painful neuropathy. Over the years, I've built up a tolerance to conventional muscle relaxers and vehemently avoided opioids where I can. When my doctor suggested medical marijuana as a treatment plan for my symptoms, the version of myself who grew up opposed to any kind of drug use was taken aback. But after listening to my doctor and researching the positive effects of cannabis medicine, I'm happy to say I've been benefiting from medical cannabis products now for a year. Medical cannabis significantly alleviates my pain from neuropathy and helps control my involuntary spasms, particularly at night. I've found I'm more productive, getting better sleep, and am less anxious using medical cannabis. Over the last year, I've been trapped at home amid the pandemic given my high-risk condition. I'm so thankful to have access to medical marijuana to not only treat my pain but to aid my anxiety and help me focus. The biggest downfall from Texas current cannabis program is the ridiculous low THC that requires frequent large doses. It upsets my stomach and makes me nausea. If Texas would tweak th current law to allow more THC and free up access these steps would allow for a solid and success state program.

Aubree Adams

Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas

Bellaire, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

Please opposed bill HB 1535.

\*Medicine is approved by the FDA, doesn't contain contaminants like heavy metals and pesticides, has animal and human trials, known harms and risks, known dosages and frequency of use, and isn't decided by anecdotal claims.

\*Former Surgeon General, VADM Jerome Adams states, "There Is No Such Thing As Medical Marijuana." Please listen to this 2-minute video

<https://youtu.be/YeVs7aTh9vw>

\*Opioid overdoses have increased in medical marijuana states. Marijuana proponents like to cite a study that looked at trends up to 2014, but when you expand the data to 2017, you see that opioid overdose has increased by 22% even prior to the Covid crisis.

\*Science shows marijuana worsens PTSD symptoms.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26455669/>

Calling a drug medicine is a dangerous message. All medication should be determined by science, not public opinion. There is no need to expand marijuana laws for medical purposes because there are already FDA-approved medications like Epidiolex and Marinol that can be prescribed by a medical professional. When people are suffering from illnesses, it's important that they are monitored by medical professionals as THC can cause psychosis and increase the risk for suicide up to 7 fold.

<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-psychosis-schizophrenia/>

<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-suicides/>

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Thank you for your service and time,

Aubree Adams

Director of Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas  
<https://www.safehealthytexas.org/>  
Former Colorado mom  
Host mom for kids in recovery

Donna Agruso

Representing my husband, Joe Agruso

Boerne, TX

My husband Joe Agruso is 70 years old. For the last 15 years has suffered from chronic pain due to degenerative disk disease of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar sacral areas of the spine. For the last 2 years due to osteoarthritis the bursa and cartilage of both shoulders has degenerated creating bone on bone and additional chronic pain. As his wife of 43 years and nurse it is so very frustrating to have to stand back and watch him suffer. In my professional opinion, medical cannabis is a much healthier option for treating chronic pain. It is so very frustrating and heartbreaking knowing that some patients in this country are able to receive medical cannabis and others are not. He is aware of the potential research studies, please grant his wish to be a part of this important research. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Donna Agruso

Lori& Stockstiel

National Council of Jewish Women San Antonio

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

This is completely out of synch with my religious beliefs, which state that a fetus is not considered a human being until it takes its first breath!

Crissy Ellis

Texas normal

Vidor, TX

I support this but I would like you too also please consider everyone not just veterans for ptsd they need it but so do I and I'm not a veteran. I have bad ptsd from a bad abusive relationship from 2009 that still haunts me cause I had a restraining order against him but now he lives next door to my mom and dad so it's hard for me to even go over there are to even get out my house I also have anxiety, depression, and pain from the abuse and car wrecks no fault of my own. Cannabis is medicine too me I don't take any pills cause I got addicted to them I have never ever got addicted to cannabis it's none addictive. Cannabis actually helped me get rid of my addiction with opioids and barbiturates that the doctors kept trying to give me even over prescribing. Please consider thank you for your time god bless!!

Cindy Waltrip

Self

Hewitt, TX

I am a 57 year old woman with Secondary Progressive MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS and have been blessed enough to use MEDICAL CANNABIS oil for a little over a year now because of legislation passed in 2019.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

It has made a HUGE difference in my pain level and quality of life. Not completely taking away the pain but taking the edge off so that I can be a little more productive than I otherwise can be.

CHRONIC PAIN not only hurts but it's EXHAUSTING. I'm not able to work or do very much but any pain reduction helps me live a little bit more normal of a life.

I am a conservative person who has never smoked or drank. Medical Cannabis does NOT alter my thinking or make me feel muddled at all.

Opiates work better but are NOT from a naturally occurring plant. Medical Cannabis is so much safer.

Texas Original Compassionate Cultivation is a very well-run and responsible dispensary that grows, processes, tests and distributes medical cannabis to their patients. I have only good things to say about all of my experiences with them.

There are SO many people who would benefit from medical cannabis, including my 26 year old daughter who suffers life-altering pain every day from FIBROMYALGIA.

CITIZENS OF TEXAS (children, chronically ill, elderly, our veterans and many others) are suffering every day with Chronic Pain, Fibromyalgia, PTSD, Anxiety, Depression and many other illnesses that could benefit from Medical Cannabis.

If you've never personally experienced any of these things or know someone who has, it can be hard to grasp the damage they do to people's lives, relationships and quality of life. It's very hard.

Please try to put yourself in our shoes and have compassion. This is your responsibility and obligation as representatives of the people of Texas.

I completely understand and appreciate the concern to be vigilant and responsible in this matter.

But I BEG you not to word the legislation so narrowly this time that most of the Texans who need medical cannabis have to wait another two years for hope of new legislation.

Thank you very much for your consideration and diligence in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Cindy Waltrip

Crissy Ellis

Texas normal

Vidor, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Chris DaMore

Self

Austin, TX

I am a current Texas cannabis patient. I have multiple conditions that are treated by the cannabis oil. It helps however it currently cost me approximately \$3k a month. Please expand the number of dispensary's allowed and increase the quality of the medicines that can be purchased. If a patient ID was provided it would allow for access in some other states that have medical cannabis reciprocity laws. Please allow more patients to access this program.

Kerry Ward

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Me

Stephenville, TX

I would like alternatives to dealing with my chronic pain. I was on all kinds of pain meds. For over 10 years. They messed my body up. I want safer options to treating long term pain.

Jennifer Conner, MRS.

self; music teacher

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1515. It gives citizens with no relationship to the case the opportunity to alter someone's life. Abortion care IS health care. The decision belongs to no one but the woman making it. OPPOSE HB 1515.

Debu Russo, Mrs.

Self/Permanent Disability

Kyle, TX

As a 20 year patient coping with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, Osteo Arthritis, and Sjogrens Syndrome I can attest that Cannabis has been the only substance that gives temporary but effective relief to a multitude of problems faced by patients like me with complicated issues, with the benefit of ZERO negative side affects and fast acting relief to conditions that are extremely difficult to cope with. The studies should be beneficial and from all of my research it seems to me that the results would be in the favor of cannabis vs opioids. I could and have been offered by my Physicians a plethora of opioids that only worsened my pain and added negative side effects to which I rejected all after trying to find relief. There was also always the looming fear of overdose. If there has been even one overdose of a person using cannabis I have been unable to find it. Please expand the conditions for compassionate use cannabis, and omit the limitations currently put on THC levels. Let a Physician decide a proper plan for patient, and then the patient can have a better existence to incurable diseases. It is difficult to understand why Muscular Sclerosis would receive a green light to medical marijuana but not other conditions such as mentioned above that share many of the same symptoms. Muscular and joint pain, insomnia, chronic pain, depression, anxiety... Medical marijuana offers an immediate positive affect for an opportunity to be distracted from and feel relief of so many discomforts in a natural form as opposed to dangerous man made pills that more often than not do not help a large portion of patients. I would be happy to share more information if it would be helpful in any way. Thank you very much for all of the work done to expand this legislation! Respectfully, Debi Russo

John Wright

Self

Dallas, TX

“low-THC” is asinine. Texas continues to fall further behind with its draconian and objectively stupid stance on cannabis issues. Cannabis legalization is a gold mine of jobs, economic growth and most importantly, adults being able to legally recreationally or medically smoke cannabis is a human right. Veterans and everyone else deserve access to full strength THC cannabis to treat a wide spectrum of health related issues. The only thing holding back full legalization of cannabis is ignorance, ineptitude and corruption by politicians in the pockets of others.

Debra Bruner

Self

Georgetown, TX

As a senior, our generation is seeing the cost of pharmaceuticals continue to rise. We now have many Texans to travel across Texas to neighboring states to get the relief they need and can afford. Please help the physicians that have their hands tied to finally be able to prescribe the relief for their patients to get the help that they so rightfully deserve. Studies already made by

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

qualified medical physicians in other states should be looked at and seriously considered.  
I appreciate your time and consideration.

Chelsie Garza

Mom on behalf of her son who is a colitis patient.

HUMBLE, TX

I support the bill, however, please amend the bill to include protections for parents. No parent should lose parental rights for providing their child with medical low-THC cannabis. We should also protect the child. Some schools and UIL athletics require random drug testing. A minor using low-TCH cannabis could be suspended from school and athletics needlessly for testing positive for a prescribed medication. This can impact their college admissions, etc. Also, doctor's should not risk losing their DEA license for "prescribing" low-THC cannabis. Revise the bill to take out "prescribing" to encourage more qualified doctors to recommend their patients take medical cannabis. Lastly, please expand the bill to include autoimmune diseases or Crohn's and colitis. Crohn's and colitis has been the jumping off point for a number of other state's medical cannabis laws as the science overwhelmingly supports the efficacy of medical cannabis' ability to induce remission of these diseases. Yet, Texas continues to exclude these conditions.

Lisa Lundberg

Texans for Medical Cannabis

Amarillo, TX

I cannot believe that my Great State of Texas, is still blind to the benefits of Medical Cannabis, hundreds of benefits. That our leaders haven't even studied the subject, gone to states that have it available. Not to mention the huge revenue Texas would make from sales. Hemp can be used to make do many products that are environmentally safe, thus reducing our carbon imprint. Medical Cannabis is legal in every state surrounding us. Did you know it was in the anointing oil used by Jesus? It's in the book of Genesis. That India used it to cure leprosy? I did a whole presentation on this for my speech and communication at College. I did lots and lots and lots of research on this subject. I have seen first hand it help shrink cancer cells in my aunt where she is no longer on hospice or considered terminally ill. Every check up she gets good news. GOD made this plant, it is not chemically processed in a laboratory where it creates more damage to your body or terrible side effects. I am a very strong believer that God put everything on this planet to cure us or kill us. What did the Native Americans use, the Chinese, for thousands of years before pharmaceutical companies came along. Come on Texas let's step into the 21st Century and put all other states on check for caring, truly caring for their citizens health. Get rid of all the addictive opioids. My fiancé has Multiple Sclerosis. We were at a seminar a few years after he was diagnosed. His neurologist was the guest speaker. I had researched and found that Montez Williams used medical cannabis to treat his MS, he is still walking. I asked his Doctor about Montel's form of treatment. He said Medical Cannabis is good for the brain, and that anything that is good for the brain is good for MS, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and he hoped he would be able to prescribe it to his patients in his lifetime. Please do your research, help your citizens of Texas. Start making clothes, brick, shoes, paper products from hemp, let us be the first to produce natural, biodegradable products, show the rest of the states how to DO IT RIGHT. Thank you for your time. Get educated, put us First.

Bill Doubleday, MD, Dr.

Texas Hemp Coalition/Physician

Houston, TX

I support this legislation, but wish that it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Bill Doubleday, MD

Genell Jonea

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self

Cleburne, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Karolina Gybasova, Mrs.

NA

Austin, TX

Please consider opening up the availability for low-THC cannabis plant to help people in need of pain relief! Thank you.

Rhonda Davis, Mrs

Self

Victoria, TX

I am currently scheduled to have a spinal stimulator placement this week to help with my chronic back pain. I still get numerous muscle spasms that I could not control with cannabis. My doctors are very proud that I have stopped all pain medications due to my cannabis use. Please let our doctors decide what's best. Thank you for listening.

Alaska Greene McCutchan, Mrs.

Self

College Station, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program.

I have multiple chronic health conditions, that put me in extreme amounts of pain every day. A range typically called "suicide" pain. Unlike most with these conditions, prescription pain medicine has little to no effect on me. This is not do to over use, and building up a tolerance, and I have not met a doctor who can explain it. The only pain medicine that has taken the edge off, a little, is Dilaudid. There is one medicine left to try, before Fentanyl (which I highly doubt I could receive a prescription for) and that is the strongest pain medication there is.

While that medicine does help, it is almost impossible for me to obtain a prescription for it, or any other pain medicine. With the rise of the opioid epidemic, people in real pain, who are not addicts, are being treated as drug seeking. Further restrictions have been placed on physicians, if they are considered to be prescribing them too often. The climate for patients like me has become untenable.

One of the conditions I have is Endometriosis, and

I assure you, it is not just a bad period. Having given birth already, I can promise you that Endometriosis is worse. Without access to pain medicine, I am left with few options. Do I drink to get rid of the pain? Risking bringing about further health conditions, and risking alcohol dependence. Do I stay tied to my heating pad the entire time (cooking, sleeping, working, I even have an adaptor for while I am in my car). Three months in a row now, I have given myself second degree burns trying to manage my pain.

Can you imagine what your life would be like if you had horrible pain, constantly, and you either have to deal with all of it, and miss out on work and other obligations. Or you had to be hooked up to a heating pad with a four foot cord for two weeks out of the month.

No one should have to choose between nothing, or second degree burns. No one suffering from a severe condition, in desperate need of pain relief should be denied the right to access proper pain management.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

There are more health conditions and variations than most of us can ever memorize, it is not practical for Legislatures to decide which conditions might cause pain that is severe enough that it would merit medical cannabis use. Leaving the decision in the hands of Physicians, would be the safest, most efficient option, that would ensure no Texan who is ill and deserving, is left behind.

As a State we have come so far on this issue, and I am grateful for that progress. That is why we should continue our forward momentum, and make these changes. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Eric Fornols

Self

Port Neches, TX

I support this bill. There are many different ailments that can be eased or resolved by this . With the knowledge Doctors have today on this they can prescribe much more accurately and to a much broader spectrum helping more people that need this.

Rudy Pena

Self

Houston, TX

It's time for the Great State of Texas to finally protect Texans in obtaining medical THC cannabis for treatments in adults and children who suffer from epilepsy and chronic pain.. Products have to be bought in from other states , when we as Texans should have the option to buy it within our own state. It is the quality of life that we strive for .. live well .. god bless America..

Steve Moore

Myself

Carrollton, TX

I have struggled with chronic headaches. Cannabis lessens the pain significantly. When you consider that I can ingest harmful painkillers or a plant there is no comparison. Please help.

Pete Marrero

Myself

Haltom City, TX

I'm a veteran, father, husband, cancer survivor and currently have severe digestive issues and I fully support this bill

Spencer Williams, RN

self

Round Rock, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Gwenda Taggart, Mrs.

Self - Parent Advocate

San Antonio, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

My 50 year old son sustained a traumatic brain injury in 1986 and has continued with a seizure disorder. He has taken medications for his seizures for years. The medications have controlled the seizures but there are many side effects from the medications. Every six months he has to have a blood test to make sure his kidneys and liver are still functioning correctly. I would prefer to try the medical cannabis to help with the seizures and get off the medications. Please take action to help my son with his particular situation.

Marlow Newton

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I am in full support of HB1515. Our laws need to reflect today's science and technology, thus the passing of this bill is critical.

I urge you to pass this important bill.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Marlow Newton

Adrienne Abrahamson

self (tutor)

Roanoke, TX

My name is Adrienne Abrahamson and I oppose House Bill 1515. I am very concerned that time and effort continues to be spent on attempting to ban and/or restrict abortion. Instead, I believe legislators should be spending resources on addressing current emergencies and serious issues that affect so many living Texans. Abortion is healthcare, and our lawmakers should be expanding access to healthcare, not restricting it further. I strongly oppose House Bill 1515, as it is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, since most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. This bill also creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion. This bill is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. The Texas House needs to focus on the real crises facing Texans like access to health care, responding to COVID-19, maternal mortality, and the energy crisis, not Dan Patrick's political agenda.

Gayle Cline

Self/retired occupational therapist

Amarillo, TX

Women who have been physically abused have PTSD also, and their PTSD can be quite horrific for them. They should have access to medical marijuana. However, since I have never heard of anyone dying from a marijuana overdose, I believe marijuana should be decriminalized and available to any adults for any purpose, including as a medicine or for recreational use. Thank you for your time.

Jose Sanchez

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



self

Victoria, TX

I support this bill

Hello I am on a kidney transplant list at Houston Methodist transplant center .  
and need this bill to pass thank you

Rickey Allen

Private citizen who votes

New Baden, TX

I think it is time to at least look at this and have studies on the possible medical benefits.

Dennis Borel

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Austin, TX

FOR B1535.

As a statewide cross-disability advocacy organization, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) has members with diverse disabilities and chronic conditions. CTD believes in a regulated medical cannabis market. The legalization of low-THC hemp in 2019 inadvertently drove consumers away from regulated cannabis to unregulated hemp products. CTD supports an increase in THC for medical cannabis for this reason and for improved efficacy. Many CTD members remain unable to access medical cannabis due to the current narrow eligibility. HB1535 would expand patients in the program, including for PTSD. The filed bill links PTSD patients to veterans. CTD supports opening eligibility to all with PTSD, not simply veterans.

Katharine Harris

Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my support for HB 1535.

HB 1535 would add chronic pain and PTSD to the list of qualifying conditions for the Compassionate Use Program (CUP). In a recent survey of 2866 people who use cannabis medicinally in Texas, published by Baker Institute for Public Policy and Foundation for an Informed Texas, 80% of respondents reported using illicit cannabis for chronic pain. 32% reported using it for PTSD. Scientific research shows that cannabis provides relief for chronic pain and symptoms of PTSD.

HB 1535 would raise the cap on THC content to 5%. The CUP's current THC cap of .5% is not based in science and makes the legally available cannabis ineffective for many Texans with qualifying conditions.

In the above-cited survey, 18% of respondents said they use cannabis illicitly to treat neuropathy, despite this diagnosis qualifying them for the CUP. Respondents reported using illicit cannabis for multiple sclerosis, autism, and Parkinson's, all covered by the CUP. As of March 2021 fewer than 5000 patients were listed in the Compassionate Use Registry. Use of illicit cannabis with higher THC content among qualifying individuals and the CUP's low participation rate show that the program excludes a large contingent of its target population.

The .5% cap on THC content, which ignores the scientific evidence of THC's therapeutic value, is meant to prevent anyone consuming medical cannabis products from experiencing the psychoactive effects of THC. But nearly every legal medication has side effects, some of which are also psychoactive and potentially much more serious than the side effects associated with cannabis use.

In the above-cited survey, 61% of respondents reported replacing opioids and benzodiazepines with cannabis. Many said they did so because they disliked the impairment and dependency that came with sustained use of these legally available drugs. It is no small irony that some elected officials oppose allowing access to THC for these same reasons.

While HB 1535's proposal to raise the THC cap to 5% is an improvement, it is still arbitrary. I urge the committee to consider amending the bill to allow doctors to determine the optimal THC dose for patients. This is a medical decision that should be made

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

by medical professionals, not lawmakers.

I also urge the committee to allow access for all individuals with PTSD, not just veterans. There is no evidence-based reason for this distinction, and it will exclude thousands of Texans who suffer from PTSD for other reasons.

Finally, I urge the committee to include protections for doctors and patients. Language should be amended so that doctors can “certify” patients for cannabis access, rather than “prescribe” cannabis, as doing so forces them to risk their registration with the DEA to prescribe controlled substances. The bill should also protect patients from loss of employment and parental rights; without such protections medical cannabis remains off limits for thousands of Texans.

Marie Burk

Self

Fritch, TX

My name is Marie, I writing this because I have a rare syndrome called Felty's Syndrome. My condition comes with swelling of my liver, spleen, RA, neutropenia. My joints don't just swell they also leak the synovial fluid making my joints bone on bone pain. Legalizing medical marijuana for people like means that I can have something for the pain the fact my liver is swollen makes taking prescribed pain killers dangerous for me. I'm a mom and cannot afford to be addicted to opioids. I feel the compassion list forgets about people like myself suffering with auto immune degenerating diseases.

These diseases and syndromes are very painful and to have to risk my family is not acceptable for prescribed drugs that have caused many to lose everything... I am at my breaking point with the pain and keep telling my doctors I will suffer because working in a pharmacy I witnessed what opioids do to people. They make them mean, impatient and even violent! Why would I want something like that when MMJ effects might be getting sleepy?!

I thank you for your time, and hope you will consider extending the compassion program for people like myself!

Thank you

Monica Savage

Self/Nurse

Talco, TX

Allowing the use of low-THC cannabis would be very beneficial to many people. From chronic or acute pain, anxiety, depression, headaches, regulating diabetes, and PTSD, just to name a few, can dramatically change the quality of life for some people. I treat many veterans everyday that would benefit from the use of THC. When we have given them opioid and now trying to take them away. What alternatives do they have? THC is the alternative. Providing proper education on the use and benefits could be the saving grace to the opioid crisis. It would also help to combat withdrawal side effects when being weaned off these medications. As a nurse, I have seen the benefits of low-THC cannabis for myself, family, and others. I have an aunt that use a salve for phantom limb pain when nothing else has worked. A family friend gives it to her husband that has Parkinson. After 10 minutes, he has no tremors and is able to hold a conversation. These are only a few examples, but the results are unquestionable. It works. Cannabis is the future of Healthcare and the benefits outweighs the risks. Approving this bill would be highly beneficial for many Texans.

Andrew Perretta

N/A

Schertz, TX

Hello. My name is Andrew Perretta. I'm a voting constituent in Guadalupe County. I oppose HB 1535. Abortion is health care and is fully legal in the United States. I support a pregnant person's right to choose when they want to start a family. As a Texas taxpayer, I don't want public funds used to defend these unconstitutional bills in federal courts.

Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Tanya Wynne

Title

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Brazoria, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Angelique and Marc Van Bavel

self

Austin, TX

Abortion is an important element of women's rights because women are more affected by the abortion debate than men, both individually (if they are considering an abortion) and as a gender.

If abortion rights are denied, then a constraint is imposed on women's freedom to act in a way that is of great importance to them, both for its own sake and for the sake of their achievement of equality;

Women need the right to abortion in order to have the same freedoms as men. Women have a moral right to decide what to do with their bodies. The right to abortion is vital for gender equality.

Women must have full rights over their own bodies (including the right to decide whether or not to carry a fetus to birth).

Every woman should be able to decide for herself, if and when to start a family. Women need free access to abortion in order to achieve full political, social, and economic equality with men.

Reproductive freedom is a woman's right.

Banning abortion puts women at risk by forcing them to use illegal abortionists.

It is a constitutional right of women to legally obtain an abortion.

As your Texas constituents we are asking you to oppose the below abortion related bills:

Angelique and Marc Van Bavel

self

Austin, TX

Abortion is an important element of women's rights because women are more affected by the abortion debate than men, both individually (if they are considering an abortion) and as a gender.

If abortion rights are denied, then a constraint is imposed on women's freedom to act in a way that is of great importance to them, both for its own sake and for the sake of their achievement of equality;

Women need the right to abortion in order to have the same freedoms as men. Women have a moral right to decide what to do with their bodies. The right to abortion is vital for gender equality.

Women must have full rights over their own bodies (including the right to decide whether or not to carry a fetus to birth).

Every woman should be able to decide for herself, if and when to start a family. Women need free access to abortion in order to achieve full political, social, and economic equality with men.

Reproductive freedom is a woman's right.

Banning abortion puts women at risk by forcing them to use illegal abortionists.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

It is a constitutional right of women to legally obtain an abortion.

As your Texas constituents we are asking you to oppose the below abortion related bills:

HB 1280 relates to prohibition of abortion; providing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.

HB 1515 relates to abortion, including abortions after detection of an unborn child's heartbeat; authorizing a private civil right of action.

HB 2313 relates to a required resource access assistance offer before an abortion is performed.

HB 2337 that relates to the regulation of drug-induced abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing criminal penalties.

HB 2676 relates to the creation and optional filing of a record of life for an unborn child and the use of a certificate of stillbirth; authorizing fees.

HB 3218 relates to the regulation of abortion, including information regarding perinatal palliative care and prohibiting discriminatory abortions; authorizing disciplinary action; providing a civil remedy; creating a criminal offense.

HB3760 relates to information regarding perinatal palliative care, regulation of abortion, and the availability of certain defenses to prosecution for homicide and assault offenses; providing an administrative penalty; creating criminal offenses.

Robert McLain

Self

Arlington, TX

I strongly support the expansion of medical use THC cannabis for all patients who are taking prescription opioids for chronic pain and rheumatoid arthritis. I have experienced arthritis and chronic pain for over 35 yrs and have been on some form of anti inflammatory and/or opioids for most of them.(I am 50 yrs old). I am tired of opioids being my only solution and would benefit greatly from the ability to use cannabis to treat my conditions. It has been proven that cannabis is a solid alternative for numerous medical conditions. The benefits Cannabis gives us is much safer and more effective in some cases then opioids or other pharmaceuticals prescribed for pain and arthritis.

Please consider my plea for common sense Medical Marijuana laws along with millions of others who would benefit from these changes.

Amy Fawell

TX MAMMA - Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism

Austin, TX

Please consider expanding TCUP to include more conditions, and more medicine (THC limit increase to 5%). TCUP has helped many people on the spectrum, but this bill will improve it to help more people who need a safe and effective medicine - and should have the right to try it. This issue transcends party lines. Speaking as a conservative Christian and lifelong Republican, I would urge you to please support this bill. AmyLou Fawell, President and co-founder of MAMMA - Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism.

William Martin, Dr.

Drug Policy Program, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy

HOUSTON, TX

I write in support of HB 1535.

In 2019, two physicians and I testified together before this committee, explaining how the endocannabinoid system works by

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

producing its own (endogenous) cannabinoids that activate and bind to the hundreds of cannabinoid receptors in the brain and throughout the central nervous system. (For a fuller but still succinct version, see the Baker Institute Drug Policy Issue Brief, “Marijuana as Medicine”.) This complex system works to reduce inflammation and pain, fight anxiety, control nausea, calm epileptic seizures, promote healthy sleep, and prevent, moderate, and cure some diseases.

To its great credit and despite the admission by some that they had been previously unaware of the endocannabinoid system, the members of the Public Health Committee accepted the science supporting medical cannabis. They listened sympathetically to stories from people who had benefited greatly from their use of cannabis and from others who desperately wanted to access those benefits without incurring criminal penalties and the lasting encumbrances of a criminal record. And they moved that bill forward with a unanimous favorable vote. Unfortunately, like other worthy cannabis bills, it was blocked further up the line before it could be enacted into law.

My colleague Dr. Katharine Neill Harris, the Alfred C. Glassell, III, Fellow in the Drug Policy Program in Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, has submitted a substantial comment favoring this bill. I fully concur with her stated reasons for supporting the bill. I wish to enlarge upon her valid objection to the bill’s stipulation that the only people whose PTSD can be considered a condition qualifying them to receive cannabis for its treatment are veterans. I have written for Texas Monthly and the Houston Chronicle, organized Baker Institute events, and given numerous speeches, all stressing the incidence of PTSD among veterans, the healing relief they receive from cannabis, and the justice and mercy of making it available to them legally. I honor and praise their diligent, concerted efforts to make that case to the Texas Legislature, other influential political and civic leaders, and the general public.

That said, it is seriously inaccurate to insist that veterans are the only people with truly serious PTSD. No one would doubt that the attacks on 9/11 left thousands of people with PTSD, but we do not have to go back 20 years to find qualifying examples. Spanning just the time since the 2019 session, think of survivors and other victims of mass shootings; nurses and doctors dealing daily with COVID patients; EMTs, police, and firemen confronting horrible situations; immigrant children separated from their parents; women raped, beaten, or otherwise abused by men, including star athletes. This is not an exhaustive list. Please remove “and is a veteran” from this bill.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Martin, Ph.D., Director,  
Drug Policy Program, Baker Institute

Trent Townsend  
PharmaCann  
Austin, TX

PharmaCann Inc., one of the country’s largest vertically integrated cannabis companies, is in FAVOR of HB1535. PharmaCann is licensed in six of the most rigidly-regulated medical cannabis states (IL, MA, MD, NY, OH & PA) to grow, process and dispense medical cannabis products in each of our respective state markets. PharmaCann recognizes the value and importance of operating a medical cannabis business within a strict regulatory framework. Our company focuses on highly regulated jurisdictions where careful daily attention to legal and regulatory compliance is a necessity. We work diligently to meet and exceed standards for quality assurance, security, and consumer protection in our business practices; and in turn, we establish trust and legitimacy with our patients, government officials, and local communities. We also seek opportunities for thought leadership in emerging state markets, helping to establish industry best practices, and fostering research efforts to continue the discovery of the cannabis plant’s uniquely beneficial medical properties.

HB 1535 is the start to moving Texas forward on a path to responsibly expand the Compassionate Use Program. The bill positions the state as a future leader in medical cannabis research. There is a significant and growing body of available clinical research that already supports the therapeutic and palliative benefits of cannabis. With the bill’s focus on creating an informed path to study the impacts of cannabis in clinical treatment settings, HB 1535 appropriately provides statutory authority to amend and update Texas’ qualifying conditions as additional research becomes available.

To raise one consideration for amendment, as filed, HB 1535 restricts academic institutions to partner only with existing Texas dispensing organizations. To date, Texas has awarded only three dispensing organization licenses. This limitation prevents well-established medical operators with significant medical research experience and longitudinal data from participating in a research

partnership. To produce the highest quality research, Texas should allow companies who are serious about medical cannabis research to compete for participation in the state's research program and work alongside the Texas research institutions of higher learning that are eager for this sort of partnership.

This could be accomplished by amending the bill to require the licensure of additional dispensing organizations, or creating a dispensing organization license pathway through participation in qualifying, state-approved medical cannabis research activities.

In closing, PharmaCann commends the thoughtful, research-driven approach to HB 1535. We believe the research component of the bill is critical, and that a pathway to license additional dispensing organizations committed to cannabis research in Texas is necessary to enhance the future of the Compassionate Use Program.

WILLIAM TOOLEY

Self US Army veteran

Harker Heights, TX

"I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!"

Ricky Nelson

Self

Sunnyvale, TX

Legalize the medical use of low THC cannabis for the treatment of certain patients

Yerimy Cubias

Self

East Bernard, TX

I believe this should be available for those patients who need it. Many states have tested it and they believe that it works in some cases.

Tracee Bowman

Self

Grapeland, TX

I have severe fibromyalgia and shojrens syndrome. I also have hoshimoto an thyroid disease. I take 13 scripts a day and most of them multiple times a day. I was in Oklahoma a few months ago and my cousin has a medical card for marijuana and she told me to just try it. I did I could not believe how fast it took the pain away. The entire time I was there I smoke with her. For 4 days I did not have to take any pain meds. None. Now I am home and it is not to where I can get it.this would help me be able to go do more things enjoy my grand children more. Be able to enjoy time out with my husband. Please I beg of you to legalize medical marijuana and not just for vets but for all that do have medical conditions and under doctors supervision. Thank you.

Sharon Mineo

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill, and hope you will go a step further and remove the restrictions to veterans so all PTSD sufferers can benefit.

Tyler Prock

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

"self" accountant

Tyler, TX

I have been able to live in a state that allows medical cannabis for chronic pain, and because of those laws, I was able to get off of all my prescription back pain medication. I support this bill.

Andrea Steel, Esq.

Self, Partner at Coats Rose, P.C., and Co-Chair of the Cannabis Business Law Group

Houston, TX

I am submitting comments to express my support of HB 1535, and offer possible enhancements for consideration.

For background, I am a partner at Coats Rose, a 30-year-old Texas-based civil litigation and transactional law firm. I've been a regulatory attorney for over 12 years and I co-chair the Cannabis Business Law Group. I represent legal cannabis businesses across the supply chain including cultivators, testing labs, manufacturers, retailers and more. These comments are not made on behalf of any client, but are instead my own observations based on extensive knowledge and experience.

Our current Compassionate Use laws are generally broad and flexible compared to many other states, but there are shortcomings. I commend Rep. Click for authoring this bill, acknowledging those laws need only a few - but very important - tweaks to really allow the Program to thrive. Despite the great framework, our current Program is one of the most restrictive in the country, so the proposed changes are vital.

Because of undue restrictions on the THC cap and qualifying conditions, Texas patients are forced to leave our State to gain safe and proper access, which is possible in any one of the surrounding states, as they all have comprehensive medical programs.

An increase to the THC cap is imperative but sadly the proposal to go to 5% still falls short. Most medical programs in the country, including surrounding states, do not have these arbitrary caps. Research shows 5% will not adequately serve patients.

I ask that THC concentration levels and the existence of debilitating conditions be left up to the determination of qualified physicians, who, under current law, are already required to create and maintain patient treatment plans to monitor such items.

I support the creation of Institutional Review Boards, which will help Texas – home to the biggest medical center in the country - conduct much-needed innovative research. I ask you please consider including a provision for a comprehensive report to assess various medical and adult-use programs throughout the country, with a focus on health consequences for consumers, including driver impairment studies, effects on physical and mental health, and collateral costs to our healthcare system.

This sort of analysis will put Texas in a strong position in the future to consider fact-based, data-driven and Texas-specific legislation. The report could serve as a foundation for further expansion, but in a manner backed by scientific research and specifically tailored for our State's unique demographics. Fees collected from the Compassionate Use Program could fund it, and it could serve as a reliable source to foster bi-partisan support of well thought out future legislation.

While Texas is undoubtedly behind most other states on cannabis policy, the silver lining is we can pull data from those already participating and create a model program of policies we know will work well, and I ask this please be considered.

Elias Jackson, Dr.

Vyripharm Enterprises Inc.

Houston, TX

SUPPORT and AMEND HB 1535 By Rep. Stephanie Klick

HB 1535 expands on the current Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) to establish institutional review boards, add new qualifying conditions and raise the THC cap to 5%.

- However, the proposed bill should be amended to incorporate a track, trace & certification system in order to protect

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

public health and public safety. Cannabidiols, also known as CBD, is an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and any products containing it should be included in a track, trace and certification system.

- TCUP currently requires licensed dispensing organization to use an inventory control system that tracks the licensee's stock of low-THC cannabis.
- However, the program does not provide DPS with real time access to the inventory system. DPS currently has to wait until it inspects a dispensing organization to verify the accuracy of the licensee's stock of low-THC cannabis instead of engaging in a proactive approach that would allow DPS to see if there are any discrepancies at any point in the supply chain.

HB 1535 should be amended to include additional language that would require DPS to create a track, trace, and certification system that tracks, traces, and creates certification standards for low-THC cannabis products.

- This system will establish safety standards for growers, dispensaries and producers of THC products and protect consumers from unsafe, harmful products.
- This system would support the traceability of THC products from agriculture to retail and allow regulators to collect information from different data sources within the supply chain in order to create a complete picture of the product being monitored.

The Track, Trace and Certifying Program will promote public health and safety; increase regulatory transparency; and provide economic benefits for the state of Texas.

- **Public Health and Safety:** The system would deploy an integrated system for evaluating THC products for public safety, quality control, and quality assurance purposes that allows for regulatory certification and labeling of products from agriculture to consumer consumption. This validation and certification platform would allow Texas to proactively implement standardization requirements to ensure that products are free from factors that could pose compliance and health risks.
- **Transparency:** The system would provide licensed manufactures and other industry stakeholders with confidence in a uniform regulatory framework with a clear set of regulatory standards for state approval. This will also allow Texas law enforcement regulators oversight and control over "grey market" issues which could devalue the industry.
- **Economic Benefits:** This track, trace and certifying system would help address issues related to risk mitigation, industry economic stability and tax/fee inconsistencies.

For information contact: Dr. Elias Jackson, Vyripharm Enterprises Inc. (elias@vyripharmbio.com)

Herman Olguin, Mr.

MPP.org

San Antonio, TX

I believe research shows years of THC cannabis helping elevate chronic pain and other serious health issues. Many people are suffering today and could benefit from be eligible to take it to for relief. We need change.

Brenda Frank, Retired teacher

Self

Tomball, TX

Dear Public Health Committee Representatives,

My name is Brenda Frank and I am writing to express my opinion on HB 2323 by Klick. I am FOR regulating FDA abortion inducing drugs that are expected to be repealed. Please vote YES for this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Frank  
8324438449

Mike Merriweather, CEO

Baba Holistics

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Cedar Hill, TX

Low THC isn't used to get high. There are countless people who use CBD and other cannabinoids with full profiles (low thc) for medical purposes such as pain management, to focus, or control seizures. Don't stop the ability for many people to abandoned harmful opioids to a natural solution.

Marcella Tincher

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am in support of HB 1535, I only wish it went further and was more inclusive and expansive. Please vote yes on HB 1535. Thank you for your consideration and hard work!

Monica Fraga

Self

Denton, TX

Medical marijuana has helped manage my Hashimoto disorder and chronic pain for several years now. I fear I will lose the wonderful life that I regained from marijuana if the bad laws and discrimination continues. Please help end the suffering of many Texans.

I am in support of legalization.  
Thank you for time and support  
Monica Fraga

Laura Gardner

Self

Cypress, TX

Texans deserve a fair medical cannabis program to treat all permanent ailments without hardship and penalty. This needs to be in a high concentration of THC allowable above 20%.

Jo Anna Love

Self

Crowley, TX

Please vote to pass this

Bryan Buendia

Self

Pleasanton, TX

Veterans need help now!! Why are we suffering while you wait to get us help? Sincerely, an Iraq war veteran

Matthew Pivalizza, Mr.

Normal

Florence, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Has great potential

Courtney Opera

Self

Waxahachie, TX

For Texans to have access to medical marijuana would be one of the best things Texas has done in a long time for me, personally. I suffer from Epilepsy and Petite Mal Seizures, for me to have the ability to try a different type of medication that has been proven to help so many people would be amazing.

Valecia Vanecek

Self

Trinity, TX

I support improvements in the Texas TCUP program. Specifically, more patient eligibility and removal of any THC caps and restrictive laws on delivery systems. Patients are not criminals. Please give patients meaningful MMJ safe access ASAP. Thank you for your leadership.

John Gibson

Self

Rowlett, TX

Let's use some common sense and do away with the demonization and illegalization of this mild medicine that can help so many

Corey Reams

Self

Spring Branch, TX

It is an extremely useful plant for medical purposes made illegal for extremely terrible reasons almost half a century ago. Not only should it become more available for medical patients without a THC cap but it should be treated as any other regular plant and be fully legalized. If we were truly a free country the idea of government deciding what plants we can have wouldnt even be up for discussion. End this madness.

Laura Midgett

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Cannabis is a very beneficial herb and also has great use as a textile fiber. There is no reason for any low THC cannabis to be illegal.

Robin Petty

Self

League City, TX

We need to allow doctors to determine strength and dosage of cannabis that is appropriate as well as what conditions it can be used for. They are the professionals trained to make that determination.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

In addition, we must change the language of the bill to allow them to “certify” medical patients instead of “prescribing” cannabis since it creates potential issues for them based on the current federal status of cannabis.

Jorge Longoria  
L6 Enterprises LLC  
Garland, TX

I completely support this bill. I am a Texas resident having to drive to Oklahoma to be a part of this industry. I have seen 1st hand how medical marijuana helps people as well as boosts an economy. I was out of work in construction last year and the marijuana industry in Oklahoma helped me provide for my family and achieve success. How's able to put my business senses to good use in the marijuana industry by tracking inventory, sales, and taxes.

Zack Carter  
Self  
Arlington, TX

There is no reason marijuana should remain illegal. It should be recreational across the board.

Tom Brite  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

This bill is a no-brainer. Medical cannabis has helped tens of thousands of Texans, including my son. The problem is that the law does not go far enough in helping Texans. Polling shows 85% of Texans support medical cannabis, it's our elected officials that are going against the desires of Texans. Expand it, allow a larger THC limit and you will be helping Texans.

Shawna Brown  
Self  
Paris, TX

I encourage the passing of HB 1535 in regards to medical cannabis use. I support this bill as well as the improvement statements of allowing doctors to suggest THC as a pain reliever for many afflictions including cancer patients and seizure patients as well as for multiple mental disorders such as PTSD and anxiety. Studies have shown that THC is beneficial in treating all of the above and it is, in my opinion, inhumane to deprive Texas citizens the choice of using medical cannabis. Many other states have not only adopted medical cannabis but have also opened it up for recreational use. Studies have also shown that Marijuana is not the introduction drug that many have incorrectly labeled, it is not shown to be an addictive substance, and it is much less dangerous than the use of alcohol which is quite legal for adults 21+. Allowing medical cannabis would drop our penitentiary population, saving taxes for citizens, as well as offering a new and profitable tax base.

Sincerely,

Shawna Brown

Kasey Edwards  
Self  
Mckinney, TX

As a Texas resident and mother, I would like to encourage this bill to pass for many reasons. The most pertinent is to see our state move forward in studying and allowing for the use of cannabis to aide in the help and health of those that need the plant's many

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

benefits.

Krissie Marshall

Self

Harker Heights, TX

Many people with chronic pain and PTSD would really benefit from this Bill such as myself. I am a disable veteran who has served my country. I was deployed to overseas conflicts. I & many other veterans quality of life has decreased due to being in constant chronic pain, PTSD and many other illnesses. We are forced to take opioids which causes additional issues treated with more medications to counter act the negative side effects for the opioids where cannabis does not have any of these negative side effects. I feel that if this bill for cannabis were to be approved it would help so many people get back a better quality of life with less pain and mental health under control legally. We need this. Thanks for listening.

Chris Dombrowski

None/self

San Antonio, TX

After watching both my mother and my father struggle with pain and cancer and not being able to Gain access to tea cup before their passing my mother would have benefited from this instead of passing away from malnutrition with osteoarthritis and my father would have been able to continue his cancer treatments

Zach Minefee

Self, Self-employed

Mount Pleasant, TX

I am a combat veteran who uses cannabis to help control anxiety, PTSD, and pain related to my service. I believe that cannabis use in Texas should be legalized for medicinal purposes for all, if deemed worthy by a doctor. It has helped me control my alcoholism and I am more productive citizen, father, and friend because of cannabis.

raul Gonzalez

self

Houston, TX

If it helps our troops with PTSD, and those living with chronic pain should have access to pain management (other then pills that just numb you from the world.)and relief. I have been sufferings with chronic pain myself from the age of 16 when I had a car accident and shattered my leg requiring the insertion of a steel rod which is still implanted till this day. My doctor provides pain medication which i don't buy because there to strong and knock me out. thank you for your time.

Amy Holland

Myself/ disabled

Dallas, TX

Current marijuana policies are not based on science or sound evidence, but rather misinformation and fear.

Please make these decisions based on facts and not preconceived notions based on propaganda.

Cannibus helps so many in so many ways and it would be great if users weren't considered criminals.

No one is going to stop using so either keep funding illegal trade or make some money for the state.

Elaine Talarski

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

LEAGUE OF Women Voters of Texas

San Antonio, TX

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Karlo Rodriguez

Self

El Paso, TX

Cannabis has helped me manage my PTSD and chronic back pain from the service. Having legal access to this medicine would be such a benefit. I have to constantly be scared I will get arrested for something that is benefiting my mental and physical health.

Heather Fazio

Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy

Austin, TX

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members,

Overall, we support HB 1535 as it makes the Compassionate Use Program more inclusive. We offer the following recommendations for improvement and increased patient access:

? Allow Doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

? Move from percentage based dosing to weight based dosing like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

? Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

? Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

? Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program

Thank you for your leadership and consideration!

Toward Liberty,

Heather Fazio

Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy

512-825-9142 | hfazio@txmjpolicy.org

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Christie Reagan

Self/ Disabled

Dayton, TX

I agree with the bill and think the TCUP should add more to those who qualify including those with crones and colitis, this could help with getting off medication, I agree with 5% for now but think the percentage should be allowed to raise in the future!  
Thanks for supporting this bill

Glen Mayes

Self, CEO/President of Verified Texas Hemp

Abilene, TX

As a father to a child who qualifies for TCUP, I can truly say that Texas does not consider children like mine. The research that I have found on my own lead us to using THC in higher levels than what ever has been considered in Texas. I feel like I'm wasting my breath because this information is falling on deaf ears. With so many states having a successful medical program with at least 4x the THC % I would really like to know where the rationale is. Adult use is legal all around us: New Mexico, Oklahoma, and The Nation of Mexico the THC percentages are upwards of 25-31+%.

As far as treating a known biological system, we are failing on the education and true science of cannabis in Texas legislation. I've seen several people regain their health here in Colorado using Cannabis. And Sadly, I've seen several people deteriorate in their health due to lack of access.

I hope I don't have to see many more people die because of lack of access. Feels like a third world country not Texas. Thanks

Grayson Schulz

UNT

Denton, TX

It's time to do this. People use cannabis for healing not hurting. Weed is good. Liquor is bad. Texans struggling with chronic pain everyday need their medicine to not make them feel like a criminal for smoking something that grows out of the ground naturally. How are we going to keep a plant banned? It's just a plant with some different characteristic in it's dna then other plants.

Amy Fanguy-White

Self

Kyle, TX

Doctors need the ability to regulate the THC/CBD ratio to best help their patients. We need to open up when medical cannabis can be used and proscribed. By doing these things we will see a drastic drop in the opioid drugs being proscribed and the amount of addictions to them. It is time that patients have access to something that works with a lower addiction rate and lower side effects. Texans need to have a choice.

Teresa Cleghorn, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please pass HB 1535 and allow whether or not to use marijuana for medical purposes to be a medical decision between doctor and patient. Too many people who marijuana could help are being left without a treatment, or they are prescribed pharmaceutical drugs with terrible side effects and addictive properties.

Jill FOSTER

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self / Small business owner and substitute teacher

CEDAR PARK, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Gary Sanford

Self / retired

Humble, TX

I, as an older retired person with extreme pain would live the opportunity to get relief from my pain. If my conservative leaders will not start thinking of their constituents, you will be losing me. I've been a conservative all my life and I am tired of my representation not listening to the voters who placed them there. Please do something for your supporters.

Brad Byrd

chronic pain patient

Princeton, TX

I am hoping Texas will stand up and make cannabis legal for chronic pain patients. The pills are not good for long term use...

Shane Glombik

Self

Garden Ridge, TX

I support this bill

Cristopher Penate

Self

Carrollton, TX

This would be a much better way to treat my chronic pain. Instead of using pain killers.

Karen Daughtry

Freedom of oneself

Gainesville, TX

Why are some states still living in the dark ages? With the technology and studies and positive affects of cannabis how come TX clearly looks the other way? Cannabis Cures! Ask the epileptic children who have daily seizures, ask the grandma with glaucoma, ask the war veteran with his PTSD. It's OK for masses to inject propaganda bs along with man made pharmaceuticals for the rich man's gain. But a little pain relief is asking too damn much.

Melissa Cole

Myself

Orange, TX

I support this bill because I am living with chronic pain. I have had 3 surgeries with lots of complications. I live with chronic

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

pain. For now CBD and now Delta 8 are helping me. I would love to see our State bring medical forward. So many people are unnecessarily addicted to pills. I was one and found CBD and Delta 8. Please please consider passing this bill. It will help so many like myself dealing with pain daily.

Lindsay Grooms

Self

Lewisville, TX

In favor of 1535. However, I believe we can do better by allowing physicians to decide how much their patients need for dosage. We can expand the compassionate use to more conditions and ptsd to non-veterans. Thank you.

Angelique Diaz

Self

El Paso, TX

I believe any one whom has medical issues should have access to cannabis it has helped so many people i cant count though i do know it most definitely has help my husband with his PTSD from the Army and deploying and it has helped his drinking problem he had. It has also helped myself with my anxiety, lupus, fyibromyolgia this plant has amazing perks and i just others saw it and knew it... Thank you for your time.

NABIL AHANGARZADEH, Mr

Self

MANSFIELD, TX

Allow for personal autonomy, THC and all cannabis-related products should be decriminalized entirely.

Jacob Hallberg

Jh

El Paso, TX

Please listen to the people and not the possible dollars in your wallets. People should be able to treat themselves outside the scope of corporate and pharmaceutical control. Greed is destroying this country and filling our jails. It is truly a disgrace. Dont wait until it is your loved ones. God Bless America.

Janice Harris, Mrs

Janices Office Works and Dispatching LLC

CARTHAGE, TX

this should be passed

Joshua Thurston

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support progression for this bill

Diana Richards

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Self, Volunteer Advocate for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and other genetic connective tissue disorders

Sherman, TX

Thank you, Chairwoman Klick and Committee Members. I am FOR HB 1535. I am a Native Texan in in far North TX, and I have a "rare" genetic disorder called Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS) that means my body doesn't make collagen and other connective tissue proteins correctly. The instance It leads to dysautonomia, dislocated joints, horrific muscle spasms (as our muscles are not created to compensate and take on the work of the failing ligaments and tendons full-time). EDS also leads to nerve damage, and I have now been diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia Pain in the right side of my jaw, head, neck and mouth. TN is sometimes referred to as "the Suicide Disease", because it is not curable and has very few reliable medical or therapeutic treatment options. I have even tried botox injections in my jaw and head at a cost of \$1200 since Insurance does not cover that option. It helped for 2 months. I've been prescribed many medications that all have side effects that worsen my conditions. I have been on CBD for several years, and I feel that it has helped me slightly and I wish I could be approved for the Compassionate Care program. Unfortunately, not enough is known about EDS and it's nerve pain complications to qualify on the current list. I know at least 1000 in the DFW area and up to the Red River who have been diagnosed with 1 of the 13 known EDS subtypes. No matter which subtype, they suffer horribly and wind up leaving their careers due to their disability that is rarely approved for disability income.

I am a person who refuses to use cannabis until it is legal for me to do so. I have never used cannabis, nor have I ever even smoked a cigarette. I do NOT want to be on opioids, so I continue to use anti-inflammatories and anti-seizure meds so that I can function and care for my family. This means I live with daily pain in numerous areas of my body. It breaks my heart that, at this moment in time, if I lived just 15 miles farther North in Oklahoma, I would qualify immediately for their program and work with doctors that could help me find just the right THC levels and strain(s). I do believe that patients should be able to use the whole cannabis plant with natural levels of THC that may be over the 5% limit in the bill. I do NOT want to leave my home State of Texas. I want to use my story to help others here in Texas to be able to gain access to this medical cannabis program. God uses broken people like you and me to help broken people like you and me.

I also have an aunt in another state who cured her Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer with RSO (Rick Simpson Oil). I actually sent in her story to Chairwoman Klick's email as well as my Representative, Committee Member Reggie Smith. Thank you for bringing this important bill to a hearing, and I respectfully request that you pass this bill favorably out of Committee and onto the Local and Consent Calendar for a vote on the Full House Floor. Sincerely, Diana Richards

Jack Powell

Self

Dallas, TX

Decriminalize marijuana.

Tyrone Walter

Self

Houston, TX

I write this for my family members who include veterans and mental health patients. Cannabis use is important to their well-being and health. For those suffering from severe anxiety and PTSD cannabis has been shown (at least in my family) to prevent suicides and prevent symptoms stemming from bi-polar disorder and other mental illnesses. Doctors for both are aware of their cannabis usage and recommend it in low doses. Doctors are aware of the various types and can best instruct patients as to which types of cannabis are best. This also prevents patients from looking elsewhere for medicine, usually more dangerous situations. Please recognize the medical benefits that doctors, police officers and politicians have already acknowledged and help those suffering from mental health problems. PLEASE. It is saving lives!

Nicholas Zamora

Self

Houston, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Texas is ready to move onto the next step of legalization.

Joel Tope

self

Kingsland, TX

Abortion is a plague on our state. I'm appealing to you as our state representatives to put a stop to it. You need to be the voice for the pre-born who cannot speak for themselves. Please be bold and protect our children by abolishing abortion in the State of Texas. You have an obligation before the LORD to do this. He is the One who has put you in this position "for such a time as this." Don't fear men. Fear the LORD! I respectfully urge the committee to reject this continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Thank you.

Eve Kandiyoti, Rn

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Jeremy Parker

Self disabled

Joshua, TX

I have been dealing with chronic back and sciatic pain since I was 17 years old. I had my first back surgery my senior year of high school. They diagnosed me with degenerative disc disease. I have since had multiple more surgeries, injections, physical therapy and so on. Since the age of 34 I have been seeing a pain management doctor. I am unable to work due to the severity of my injury.

For the past 15 years I have been using cannabis to help ease the pain. It helps quite a bit if I have the right strain. A whole plant medical cannabis program would be a God send to myself and others like me.

I do want to say I am saddened to see that a home grow option was not added to this bill. I live on a little over \$1000 a month.

Needless to say with that kind of income I can not afford the prices a dispensary would charge pretty much making this bill useless to myself and others that are in the same situation.

I'll support any kind of cannabis reform, but this bill doesn't go far enough.

Tricia Leach

Self

Alvarado, TX

My husband is an Army Vet with multiple head traumas. He's been put on multiple medicines to help, all which severely altered his mind in a negative way. The medicine caused my husband to have suicidal thoughts, and one time he tried to act on it. My husband couldnt handle the thoughts and feelings that came along with the doctor prescribed medicine, so he decided to quit using it. We had heard about cannabis helping with tbi, ptsd, and other service related disabilities. My husband and I visited a state where cannabis is recreationally legal to see if what we heard was true. After using cannabis my husband was back to his old self. His thoughts got better, his mood lifted, his pain was alleviated. Cannabis helped my husband mentally and physically. If cannabis became medically legal in Texas it could benefit SO MANY veterans. As well as people who are also suffering from the same ailments. I truly believe cannabis is a great alternative to the harmful drugs the doctors prescribe now.

Nkem Okeke

Adendox

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Houston, TX

Testimony by Nkem Okeke, JD,MBA Co-Founder/Managing Partner of Adendox

Hello, my name is Nkem Okeke and I support HB 1535 by Chairwomen Klick and the further expansion of medical cannabis in this great state. As a seasoned business and legal professional, I have been involved in the cannabis industry on the hemp side in both the US and Europe and served as an executive in a cannabis multi-state operator and publicly traded company in Massachusetts. Previously, I worked as a corporate transactional attorney and senior business manager in Washington, DC, where I had the opportunity to interface with lawmakers and politicians on complex policy issues. I grew up in Houston and obtained undergraduate and advanced degrees before returning home to co-found a private company called Adendox that focuses on cannabis intellectual property development and medical cannabis business and branding. Ultimately, the breadth of experience I gained over the years has allowed me to understand the urgency and necessity to expand the medical cannabis program in Texas. Regarding the Institutional Review Boards in this bill, we support that it encourages medical schools and hospitals to participate and perform research on medical cannabis products that are derived from legally licensed grows and dispensaries or research institutions. Our company has foreseen the lack of validation and consistency for condition specific programs for both hemp CBD and THC products. As a result, we developed an academic industrial partnership with the University of Houston TIMES, [Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics] to address these needed gaps in the industry. Following this pathway, and with hopes to become a future medical cannabis license holder in Texas, Adendox will be poised to create consistent products using our expertise, but also to validate for specific conditions via the university of Houston, which is a member of the Texas Medical Center community. Ultimately, precise mechanisms need to be put in place to independently test and verify products in the Compassionate Use Program, which will benefit consumers, the industry, and Texas. In closing, with the expansion of medical conditions in this bill including cancer and chronic pain, there will be an immediate need for more seasoned, experienced cannabis operators that will be ready and able to provide the necessary access to all qualifying patients in this great state. Thank you for your time.

Laura Braley, Mrs.

Self

Plano, TX

Please reject the continued regulation of abortion and immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

David Bourbonnais

self

Arlington, TX

Prohibition has never worked and never will work. Prohibition only provides the self-righteous a smug feeling of self worth. It is a boon to cartels. This bill is a joke. Cannabis should be legal for all adults. Texans, meanwhile, will continue to provide tax dollars to Colorado and New Mexico, where their legislatures are more enlightened.

brandon Bourland

self

north Richland hills, TX

This bill is a step in the correct direction. However we should be implementing full cannabis legalization. Are we really going to be the last state to capitalize on legalization? Jobs, tax revenue and a safer option than prescription opioids not to mention reduced crime and loss of revenue for cartels. Please stop locking people away for using a God given plant. Thank you all for your service and God bless you, your families and Texas.

Paula Huber

Self

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Spring, TX

As someone who has worked in healthcare, at a facility for adults with special needs, I approve of this. I had a patient who was developmentally delayed significantly because of his horrid seizures he's had since birth. Thankfully, under current Texas laws, the only medication that seemed to work well at \*somewhat\* controlling them, was CBD oil. It wasn't 100% effective, he still had regular, horrible seizures which meant he had to take narcotics afterwards, which left him confused, sleepy, and out of it for the next 12 or so hours. Cannabis has many healing properties that have yet to be explored by the medical community.

sandy Anderson

self

San Angelo, TX

I am the wife to a man that suffers from multiple emotional and mental disorders. To name a few he has DID, bipolar disorder, depression and schizophrenia. In another state these disorders would make him eligible for a medical card. As you may know these patients do not like to take medications that are pharmaceutical. This would give him the ability to manage these disorders and take charge of his own care and life. This may seem like a small problem to most but to my family it would make a world of difference. Having a spouse who daily is fighting himself is hard. He does have past crimes charges for marijuana use in Texas as it has been the only thing that calms him enough to be our "normal". Please consider approving medical for patients outside of the realm of cancer and epilepsy. We the people of Texas are begging you to open your minds and hearts for patients that could really benefit from something so small.

Jokubas Ziburkus

Adendox LLC

Houston, TX

Dr. Jokubas Ziburkus PhD

Associate Professor, University of Houston and  
CEO and Co-Founder of Adendox LLC.

Contact: [jokubas.ziburkus@gmail.com](mailto:jokubas.ziburkus@gmail.com)

Company: [www.adendox.com](http://www.adendox.com)

Cannabis education & References: [www.bluebonnetwellness.com](http://www.bluebonnetwellness.com)

Hello, my name is Jokubas Ziburkus and I SUPPORT EXPANDED VERSION of HB 1535 by Chairwoman Klick.

I am a tenured professor, with specialty in neuroscience, neurological disorders, like epilepsy and Alzheimer's Disease and cannabinoid science. I am equally a seasoned innovator and entrepreneur in hemp and formerly an executive in a large publicly traded marijuana company based in Massachusetts. In the past 7 years, I trained over one thousand healthcare practitioners with American Medical Association certified materials in US and EU. Furthermore, through my extensive work with the MDs, patients, and dispensaries, I have been recognized globally, including as a medical cannabis expert in several highest profile cases at the Supreme Courts of Canada.

I believe that HB 1535 would fall short of providing the necessary access to medical cannabis products for Texans. Proposed Texas legislature suggests raising the ceiling for THC to 5%. The previous 0.5% or the current 5% ceilings are set arbitrarily and have little scientific or clinical basis.

To produce a 5% THC product, the natural medical cannabis plant flower (of 15-35% THC) with the most beneficial elements is processed and diluted. During the processing and dilution many valuable cannabinoid elements get either destroyed, altered, or reduced to levels that may no longer be therapeutically effective. Diluted 5% can be limiting to severely ill patients and their treating physicians. In reality, unregistered medical cannabis patients in Texas (and patients in all legal cannabis states) are already consuming cannabis flower containing much higher concentration of THC than 5% (<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2018/03/04/texas-judge-weighs-whether-father-who-treated-autistic-daughter-with->

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

marijuana-is-fit-to-be-her-guardian/).

Furthermore, patients that need hundreds of milligrams of THC daily to help them with cancer and other severe ailments, would have to consume tens of milliliters (almost a whole liquid ounce) of 5% THC oil daily! This carrier oil would impose a significant caloric intake and may not be effective because most of it would get swallowed and digested.

As an expert, I conclude that there is significant clinical evidence that high THC products in many formats should be made available to medical cannabis patients in Texas. Benefits outweigh the risks.

#### SUGGESTED HB 1535 EXPANSIONS

1. CONDITIONS: - Any (broad spectrum of additional) medical conditions - determined by the trained physician].
- 2a. THC %: No THC percent limit set in products and the final dosing should be recommended by a trained supervising physician.
- 2b. PRODUCTS: Product Offerings should be expanded:
  - cannabis flower
  - concentrates
  - suppositories
  - edibles

WILLIAM TOOLEY

Self US army veteran service three tours in Iraq

HARKER HEIGHTS, TX

"I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!" I'm a US army veteran that's suffers from PTSD,spinal stenosis,bulging disc,arthritis in my feet,knees and ankles. My daily meds are ambien,prazosin,mirazapine,gabapentin, and anti inflammatories. Please consider removing the THC limit and Expand the medical marijuana diagnosis list here in Texas

Michelle Morris

Self, financial planner

Missouri City, TX

Legalize all marijuana

Erin Robinson

Self

Quitman, TX

I support this bill and thank you for your dedication to our legislation.

Adam Smok

American people

Weatherford, TX

Seeing as Alcohol causes thousands upon thousands of deaths each year, however is still legal and treated as adult responsibility, I believe it is past time to recognize the medical benefits of Marijuana. This is not a drug rather than a plant and has many documented medical benefits, and can help many people, however with the law enforcement upon this plant many choose more harmful remedies. I am in constant pain but can't use this plant, I can however use highly addictive drugs proven to have caused a

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

epidemic of deaths, or they can surgically alter my body with a 40% rate. I am not asking for a full legalization at this time, but to decriminalize it and to allow medical use without legal backlash or risking loss of the second amendment. There are millions of responsible adults who smoke or consume one way or another and do not commit crimes. Putting none violent citizens in jail for a plant that many states have already decriminalized or even legalized with violent predators is barbaric and wrong. We can open up more tax revenue for Texas and open more jobs in Texas in decriminalizing this miracle plant. Thank you for your time

Steven Price

The. VOICES of Our Veterans

San Antonio, TX

Full support of this Bill!

Medical Marijuana helps prevent suicide, relieves pain and suffering due to Chronic Pain, Cancer and many other debilitating medical issues.

Carlos Zevallos, Dr

Legalize

Southlake, TX

Legalize marijuana ????

Emil Downs

self IT/GIS

San Augustine, TX

? Allow Doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

? Move from percentage based dosing to weight based dosing like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

? Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

? Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

? Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program.

Texas does not need to sit on the sidelines and wait for our federal government to act while our citizens lack the ability to legally choose safe and effective holistic plant-based medicine.

Texans are forced to seek alternate sources of medication that are not tested by independent laboratories for harmful biologicals and adjuncts.

This not a partisan issue or a right/left issue. This is an issue of compassion, justice, and liberty. Choose Texas, not an outdated, dogmatic, and blind viewpoint proven to be based in fear,

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

racism, and greed.

Thank you for your efforts and your wisdom and God please bless Texas!

ECD

Jamie Boren

Myself

Austin, TX

As a former medical marijuana patient from Florida, I believe more mental health conditions should be included - while removing the veteran requirement for PTSD - and that there should be no THC cap. Different conditions require different/heavier doses - especially chronic pain. Doctors should be able to decide those factors based on the patients they meet. Being able to freely safely access this medication would change my life and so many others!

Brian Boren

Self

Seabrook, TX

I support this bill as a stepping stone to where Texas should be in regards to cannabis. The plant has brought me relief from pain an inflammation associated with a back injury I got in a car wreck in 2008. It has allowed me to live my life, raise my kids, and be a productive Texas in the workforce without the need for dangerous and addictive pills. It is passed time for Texas to step up to the plate and allow its citizens access to natural, safe medicine without the fear of legal repercussions. Please vote in support of HB 1535 to take Texas another step closer to patient liberty and help ease the opioid crisis in our state.

Jessie Carlson

Self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. Medical freedom means allowing my doctor to prescribe what is best for me, and if their is a safe alternative to Opioids and sleeping pills, that have killed so many, let us have it.

Olivia Honeycutt

Self - Health Care Provider

Austin, TX

Decriminalize Medicine

Allow Doctors autonomy to practice medicine within their scope by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. There should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Cherie Champeaux

self

Spring, TX

I believe that the extension of the compassionate use program should be approved. It has been proven that cannabis helps. As someone who suffers from chronic pain, it is something that is needed.

David Boring

Self

Gunter, TX

Veterans Administration is my healthcare provider. My experience as a veteran with health issues spans three decades. The medications for my specific issues have changed many times. These medications all have side effects that over a period of time cause me other difficulties. In my opinion, THC therapy is the more efficient and effective route for treatment.

Thank you & God Bless

David Boring

Conner Dyer, JD

Self

Mesquite, TX

I applaud the Texas legislature for attempting to make progress in expanding patients access to medical cannabis. However, I do believe that the approach proposed in this bill does not do enough. Studies have shown that THC is one of the key components of medical cannabis that assist in pain reduction and appetite stimulation. By retaining a low THC cap you are preventing patients from taking full advantage of the medicinal properties of the plant itself. As it stands, the proposed bill is only a tiny step forward when Texas needs a leap.

LaTosha Okoiron, Esq

Minorities for Medical Marijuana Inc./The Association for Cannabis Health Equity and Medicine/The Law Offices of LRO, PC

Houston, TX

We recommend that any condition Determined by a Medical Physician to benefit from Medical Cannabis be considered a qualifying condition. Additionally, allow for dosing, THC level, quantity and route of consumption/delivery method to be determined by a patient's physician. Any physician qualified to practice medicine in the state of Texas should be permitted to recommend medical Cannabis to her/his/their patients. Physicians should be able to recommend medical Cannabis rather than prescribe medical Cannabis. Physicians should also be allowed to access patients and recommend medical Cannabis in person or via telemedicine. The medical licensing board should be prohibited from censoring, investigating, or disciplining physicians on the sole basis of evaluating, recommending, counseling, or managing the medical use of cannabis. It should also identify continuing education for its licensees.

Lisa Pittman

Self

Austin, TX

I am an attorney testifying in support of the bill on behalf of myself. I have advocated in favor of the CUP since its inception in 2015, which provoked me to alter my practice to pursue medical marijuana issues, which I have done in numerous states, including moving to Colorado for 2 years to fully immerse myself in the law and practicalities on the topic. I have been in Rep.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Klick's office several times as my daughter suffers from juvenile epilepsy, but not the type that qualified for the original program, and I could tell you stories of the specialists who admitted they were guessing with serious organ and brain jeopardizing drugs and admitted they were guessing at her possible condition, which leads me to my sole suggestion for a slight improvement to this bill, which I fully support.

I am very pleased to see the creation of an institutional review board that will evaluate research and monitor patient treatment, which could lead to the addition of treatable conditions based on research. Similarly, I urge the inclusion of a similar provision to allow the administrative addition, as appropriate, based on ongoing research, to raise the THC cap if physicians determine that CBD to THC ratios, or carrier oil ratios, would better serve patients in certain treatment plans, without forcing patients to wait until the next legislative session for an increase for their particular medicine needs. From my experience in other states, where 99% THC is available, even if Texas allowed physicians to double THC to 10%, Texas would still be considered a low THC state. I understand, however, that the most important thing is to continue progressing with this law and the challenges to get this bill through the Senate, and for that reason I suggest this alternative route to allow physicians to incrementally adjust this aspect of the medicine based on the progression of research in Texas, rather than to outright increase the cap in the statutory language.

I commend the steady efforts to improve this program over time to continue to benefit the patients of Texas and I echo and incorporate their testimony, along with the testimony of physicians in favor of this bill and implore us all to focus on making this bill become law. Thank you for your efforts and attention to this matter.

Christian Lape

Self

Brownsville, TX

We need to move past this stigma of Marijuana being bad. There are many people within this great state that can benefit from marijuana. We need this to increase the medical research and use of marijuana to better help all with varying ailments. Cancer, depression, seizures, all of these things can benefit our state. Please dont let your bias and un educated feelings towards a great plant that can be used far more beneficial then harm. If anything we should have already made it legal for recreational use since it would basically be tobacco or alcohol and that's how you'd tax it and also make a good amount of money for the state. Please think about changing an un fair law please. Family could be surviving terrible illnesses if it was far more acceptable and used.

kody young

Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy

MIDLAND, TX

As a Texas resident I would like to see Marijuana used for more medicinal purposes and have it legalized for recreational use. I was personally addicted to pain medication and have seen what it can do to you. I use to be a recreational user of Marijuana and never had a issue stopping. When it came to pain medication I went through withdrawals and all the sickness that comes with it. Never ever has Marijuana caused this. I ask on behalf of all Texans that the Legislation and senators of Texas reconsider their stance on Marijuana and legalize it as it would help to bring in revenue from taxation and allow law enforcement to focus on drugs that are dangerous such as heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, LSD, PCP and the many other drugs out there. I also strongly feel it would help to stop the cartel from trying to bring so much drugs across our border since residents would be able to go to dispensers. Thanks for your consideration and us Texas residents look forward to legalization in Texas.

Matthew Zaner, Mr.

self

Austin, TX

While I am in favor of HB 1535, I would echo the recommendations from Texas NORML on how the Compassionate Use Program can further be improved. Specifically, patient protections to eliminate the threat of parental rights being denied solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine. In December of 2019, my wife gave birth to our baby girl Kennedy Rose. Upon giving birth Kennedy tested positive for THC in her meconium. My wife has been diagnosed with MS, and medicinal THC prescribed by the compassionate use program is the only relief. In March of 2020, Child Protective Services in Travis County

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

had asked the court to remove my three-month-old daughter from the home without any evidence of abuse. I had even provided them with a negative drug test. However, they were set on placing my daughter in foster care over the issue regarding the THC, and even claimed that I had significantly influenced my wife to ingest the THC. They claimed that returning my daughter would cause immediate harm and a continued health risk. DFPS has abused the judicial system and taxpayers are placed with the burden for unnecessary expenses at the hands of the department. After complying with the judge's initial orders, the department was granted a six-month extension in the case beyond one year, to quote "gain clarification surrounding the father's mental health". It's important to note the department and child's attorneys already had documentation of a psychological evaluation which was completed 10 months prior. Yet they waited until the case was set for final orders to request an extension. The procedures of the department in this matter should be alarming to all Texans and should be carefully evaluated. Thank you.

Elizabeth Seiders

N/a

Round Rock, TX

I agree to this for a cure.

Lisa Evans, Mrs.

Self

Richards, TX

I am a Texas voter and support full legalization of cannabis, but at the very least I expect to be able to have a doctor recommendation to allow the use of cannabis when deemed helpful for myself or family members, like my epileptic son or my elderly mother, who is in pain and suffers with many sleepless nights. My dad passed of cancer a few years ago and I had to watch him suffer needlessly. It is too late for him. It's a shame that in the great state of Texas we do not have the ability to use a plant! We are forced to only rely on pharmaceuticals for certain ailments (but definitely not forced to wear a mask or get a vaccine as stated on a daily basis on Twitter)We all know pharmaceuticals are dangerous and in some cases deadly. Cannabis is neither. It is so obvious that money is more important than humans in Texas. It is also an embarrassment, that as a lifelong Texan, our state is so far behind the steps that other states have successfully taken in legalizing cannabis. I am not alone. Everyone in my circle, family, friends, neighbors, followers, there are many, who are registered voters support full legalization, so absolutely we support this bill. We are grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who are hard working, educated, small business owners and town leaders. I always go back to what my grandpa said, "put yourself in their shoes and look again." If it were your mom that was in pain and couldn't sleep, wouldn't you want to be able to choose something that you know helps to take away that pain and allows her to get a good nights sleep? Sure Ambien will make her sleep, but also drive while sleeping, eat while sleeping, cook while sleeping. This is not safe, cannabis is. Cannabis does not have these scary side effects. It would be so great if she could have a cookie and just a good nights sleep like a normal young person. It is what is fair. It is what is right. Another put yourself in my shoes. Imagine your child, only child, never any major health issues, watching tv together one morning, all of a sudden go in to a grand mal seizure. I had to look that up, maybe you should too. They give these kids tons of pharmaceuticals, lots of horrid side effects. I educated myself like a good parent should. I had to go out of state of course. Cannabis worked no side effects, never another seizure. That was just a quick summary of a much longer ordeal of course. I just want the choice to decide if a plant, cannabis, is better than a pharmaceutical for those that I love and care about. Put yourself in my shoes, wouldn't you want that? A safer alternative that you know works? Texans are changing votes and educating themselves more than ever before. This bill and many others are being watched and we expect the people that we elected to vote in support of our choices. I support HB1535.

Haley Hunt, RN

owner - Haus of Jayne

Dripping Springs, TX

I am an avid supporter of this bill. I think ALL cancer patients and ALL patients with PTSD should have access to medical cannabis. I also support raising the THC limit to 5% allowing the medical providers discretion in there support of their patients heath and overall well being. I think this will also allow us to see how impactful cannabis can be for those who need it. Those physicians should also be protected as they are "recommending" an alternative low THC cannabis for medical purposes. All

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

patients should be protected in their right to choose cannabis as medicine. I also support certified labs for consumer protection. As a retail cannabis store, our goal is to have high-quality, regulated and tested products for our clients. Their health and well-being are our number one priority. Thank you for your support and service!

Carol Andrews

Self

League City, TX

Oppose

Loretta Buster, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

Please Consider this bill for those of us looking for a more holistic approach.. Thank you.

Tammy McLendon

Self

JEFFERSON, TX

Would like to see this passed. I know many this can help, myself included. I suffer from severe migraines. My neurologist told me this would help. Thank you for your consideration.

Lou Delaney

Self

Shady Shores, TX

Please consider expanding all access to marijuana in the state of Texas, including recreational and medicinal.

The astronomical amount of money the State of Texas sends to casino's across the Red River is about to increase exponentially as soon as OK HB 2022 passes allowing citizens from all 50 states unfettered access to low requirement medicinal marijuana. It's already passed their Senate. It's moving through the House and the governor has said he WILL be signing it.

Act now FOR Texans!

Violet Bolen

We the people me myself and i

Lamesa, TX

Believe that it should just be decriminalize altogether My son has seizures and he has been arrested and for what a medication he really needs. That y'all discriminate against. And charge people with is wrong and y'all no it do the right thing for once. My boy suffers on a daily basis because of this he is grown man now has been self medicate marijuana has been a god send for him because on regular medication like fenobarbital and dilantin almost killed him put him into a coma this was hospital that almost killed him not pot it has help saved many lives but no you don't see that put out there only bad no good it's not a drug really it's plant so stop and pull the stick out your butts and do what is right for once really

Felicia Dickerson

self

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Austin, TX

Hello there, and thank you for reading my comments. I truly see the cannabis plant as a natural means of medicine. The stigma that cannabis is only for "getting high" is very outdated and silly to me. Cannabis literally saves lives. It can help people regulate and prevent diabetes, helps treat depression, weight loss, chronic pain, help regulate seizures for those with epilepsy, helps with PTSD symptoms, Anxiety, and that's just to name a small handful of benefits. If we band together as a community, with more education, research and resources, Cannabis could possibly help Austin thrive in health and business! Cannabis helps me personally by helping to treat my depression and anxiety, as well as my ADHD. Cannabis literally changed my life, for the better. I want to see it more accessible, safe, and legal to obtain for other members in our community who may be hurting to seek a more natural alternative to prescription pills.

MARIAN MACKEY

TEXAS MARIJUANA POLICY

Baytown, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1535

Jennifer Williams

self

Conroe, TX

People are suffering! Texas is inhumane with it's criminalization of a medicinal plant.

Orlando Zapata

1969 muscle pharm

Dripping springs, TX

Need this to pass

MICHAEL HAYES

TEXAS MARIJUANA POLICY

Baytown, TX

I SUPPORT HB1535

Jessica Rubens

Texas NORML

Spring, TX

Thank you for your service and leadership. This bill hits close to home as I currently have a close cousin that resides in Montgomery County who has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. The first thing she asked for after receiving the diagnosis was for her twin boys to receive genetic testing. Because when one is diagnosed with cancer their life does not stop. She is a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, and the best shining light of our whole family. The diagnosis and treatment are suffrage enough. Add the mental load of motherhood and family life and you tell me a pharmaceutical that can help? Our pharmaceuticals cannot provide the versatile and numerous healing properties medical cannabis has to offer. Please consider removing the term "terminal" from the bill for a more inclusive and deserving patient population.

The same would apply to the language concerning the condition of PTSD for the veteran population. Please consider removing

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

the population designation for the bill to benefit a more inclusive and deserving patient population.

These are important improvements to the Texas Compassionate Use Program. We would like to offer our recommendations on how the program can further be improved.

? Allow Doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

? Move from percentage based dosing to weight based dosing like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

? Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

? Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

? Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program.

Thank you for considering this important medical issue

Respectfully,

Jessica Rubens

Texas NORML Member

Nishi Whiteley

Self, business development

Austin, TX

It's time we allow physicians to practice medicine and dissolve the fear, shame and secrecy around the use of Cannabis - a safe, versatile and effective medicine. I support this bill even though it does not go far enough.

April Adams

Self

Alvarado, TX

I have severe degenerative joint and degeneration. Rheumatoid arthritis, migraines, vertigo, scoliosis severe, depression, anxiety, Ankylosing Spondylitis and Fibromyalgia. NO MEDICATIONS HELP. I can barely (if I do at all) very out of bed to move due to pain, vertigo and chronic migraines. Medical THC would help subside my pain and give me better quality of life. I don't see how to keep going without proper treatment since doctors do not want to prescribe controlled substances. I'm fine with no controlled substances, I hate pills but know cannabis helps me tremendously and saves a ton of money for my condition. Please help!!!

David Stouffer

myself

Houston, TX

Hello. I am a 62 yr old, dis-abled, US Navy Vet. On 2/17/03, while working for TSA at Bush Int. Airport, I received a disabling back injury. Since then, I have had 8 back surgeries. Also since then, I have been taking opioids for chronic pain. This has pretty much ruined my life, but I have nowhere else to turn. My Dr.s have said that med marijuana could very possibly get me off of any kind of narcotics. Being on Federal Workers comp., I am not eligible to even try !! All that I'm asking for is a little help to

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

give me back some little bit of my old life. Please help me.

Plamena Petrova Petrova

self

League City, TX

Support!

Andrew Melder

Warriors Integrating Possibilities- CEO

Katy, TX

This bill is a continued insult to cannabis patients in Texas. Having a list of approved health conditions is unsatisfactory in any capacity as it makes legislators experts on medical conditions instead of medically trained physicians. As a veteran with PTSD, I am insulted on behalf of ANY TEXAN that suffers from PTSD but would get excluded from this divisive bill. Not to mention, this medicine would be subpar to meet my medical needs with a 5% THC cap, and again makes legislators my medical expert. I want expansion to the program and don't want to deny a patient an opportunity to get access but access to the miserable TCUP program is barely access at all. This bill continues to be an insult to veterans, citizens, and Texas medical freedom and you as legislators should take the opportunity to pass a bill that is more comprehensive, inclusive, and geared to actually help patients instead of placate the Lt Gov. Do the right thing for once!

Dana Epley

Self

Houston, TX

Opposed

Jeremy wright, mr

self

Sherman, TX

Its time to pass this legislation people are for it.

MONICA FLORES

Self

Humble, TX

I have a spinal cord injury due as a victim of a police chase that caused my car accident in 2003 when I was just 26 years old. After almost 18 years of being paralyzed from the chest down, medical marijuana has helped me control my spasms, anxiety, and alleviate my physical and neurological pain so I can sleep better than any opioids ever did. Please help me and others with my same injury have better access to medical marijuana in Texas.

Travis Johnson-Esparza

Self / healthcare chaplain

San Antonio, TX

I support this legislation and believe it is long overdue. Expanding access to medical marijuana, including eliminating

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

unnecessary and arbitrary restrictions on THC content, and establishing ethics review boards to ensure that patients and physicians are protected and ethically accountable, is a way to improve the health of Texans while staying thoughtful and safe.

Gabriela Ahlheim, Mrs

self

Azle, TX

I fully support this bill and urge the committee to keep this solely as a medical option for adults and children. I personally know many children with severe brain conditions, Autism, and other medical conditions who have benefitted from these types of Low THC products. I would also urge you to refrain from allowing access of these products for recreational purposes as it will only take away the spotlight from those individuals who truly need these products for medical purposes.

Russell Dowden, Publisher

Texas Hemp Reporter Magazine

Round Rock, TX

Please make a bipartisan effort to vote for a good marijuana bill in the state of Texas. My mother has cancer and could use treatment as well as my mother-in-law who has glaucoma. The medical benefits of this plant far outweigh the problems associated with enforcing its current laws.

Texans deserve medicine like most other states citizens who have legally made the plant available. In fact, 15 states in the U.S. have decriminalized its use. In addition, a total of 36 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands have approved comprehensive, publicly available medical marijuana/cannabis programs.

Texas is a leader among many states in agriculture, business, energy, infrastructure, health and technology, let's give our citizens the best bill we can and begin a serious conversation about marijuana.

Thank you,

Russell Dowden

Publisher | CEO | Host

The Texas Hemp Reporter

The Texas Hemp Show

1104 S Mays Ave. #208

Round Rock TX 78664

[www.texas hemp reporter.com](http://www.texas hemp reporter.com)

512-897-7823c

Sandra Alexander

Self - prayer partner

Midlothian, TX

Let me urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

James Peinado

El Paso Republican Liberty Caucus

El Paso, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

We support HB 1535

House Bill 1535 would remove the terminal qualifier for cancer, allowing access to the Compassionate Use Program for all cancer patients. The bill also adds chronic pain and PTSD (for veterans only) while empowering the Department of State Health Services to add new qualifying conditions through their administrative rule-making process. HB 1535 would also raise the cap on THC to 5% and create "Institutional Review Boards," which will facilitate research and track the impact of medical cannabis on patients participating in the program.

These are important improvements to the Texas Compassionate Use Program. We would like to offer our recommendations on how the program can further be improved.

? Allow Doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

? Move from percentage-based dosing to weight-based dosing like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

? Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

? Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

? Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program.

Thank you for considering this important medical issue!

Please vote HB 1535 out of committee.

Tona Impelmance

Self

Houston, TX

CANNABIS SAVED MY LIFE??

Tona Impelmance

Self

Houston, TX

CANNABIS SAVED MY LIFE??

Rachel Prangner

Self

Houston, TX

First and foremost, I think it is important to acknowledge the fact that cannabis, "marijuana" is not a mind-altering drug, but a mind-calming drug. To refer to cannabis as a drug seems wrong. It is better than a drug- it is less harmful than a drug. It is a drug in the context that it helps someone to feel better or it takes some of their pain away- makes it easier to accept the pain or

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



circumstance one faces. To disregard the benefits from this plant puts people's lives at risk; puts children at risk. There is something here, now, that can really help. I think it's time to open the doors for cannabis legalization. And it starts with Bills like this one to move us on the right track.

Kailyn Cowart, legalize marijuana recreational and medical

Everyone in texas

Canyon, TX

Legalize marijuana and stop forcing us to use pills that are addictive and awful for us it would bring in income for Texas and would help so many citizens it would make the people In jail for marijuana free and that would mean less people in jail for stupid reason marijuana is medicine not a drug like pills stop writing tickets and putting people in jail or on probation for a all Natural plant a organic plant it would stop the black marketing and slow drug tracking down it would bring our state money so many people would benefit for marijuana in so many ways ptsd cptsd seizures autism pain depression

Gyla Fowler, Ms

Gyla Fowler

Austin, TX

Women need access to safe, affordable abortions. Abortion care is health care. Leave our healthcare alone. Nothing like a bunch of white men making decisions for women about their bodies.

Jenifer Moore, M's.

Self and Husband. We are both retired.

Houston, TX

As we grow older, stuff hurts. If your over 60 years old you understand. I am healthy, no previous or current illnesses. But I HURT!!!! I've just been informed by my Doctor that Ibuprofen is now causing low and dangerous kidney numbers and needs to be reduced. I mix in the other "pain" options but nothing helps with my feet pain -severe tendinitis. Cant operate on tendons. Ice and heat help momentarily. All that said, THC or cannibis, is the ONLY drug or treatment that allows me to get out and WALK everyday FOR my health. PLEASE understand my Doctor has NO problem writing a prescription for me as she also has foot issues that cannot be "fixed". Thank you for your consideration. No that whoever votes for this bill, get MY VOTE.

Artemio Lopez

Veterans Relief Group

Corpus Christi, TX

I support this legislation, it is time patients have access to better medicine. The Lone Star state needs to lead by example, and surpass the states already established with cannabis laws.

Anthony Salazar

Self

Big Spring, TX

The vast majority of your veterans, including myself support cannabis as a medicine in its entirety. Enough is enough with the limitations. We have too many suicides and addictions related to prescription drugs to not even consider this as an opportunity to end this crisis.

CARLA HUSKEY

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Self

SAN ANGELO, TX

I have peripheral neuropathy, cancer, its in remission thank God . I have several medical problems so trying to make this short .They took me off the opioid medication and said to take tylenol but that don't take the pain or anxiety away . Please please pass this bill. Thank you and God Bles

Ray Newman

Self - Engineer

Avinger, TX

Are we going to be the last state to jump on the wagon here? It sure seems like it. Our entire country is a pharmaceutical disaster. Have you heard of the "opioid crisis"? I have the worst kind of PTSD & anxiety. It destroyed my life. Heck, I couldn't even go out to eat at a restaurant for almost 10 years. I hate doctors and the way they made me feel. Like I wasn't a human being. They got me hooked on pills, then threatened to take them away if I didn't come in and pay them \$\$\$ every month. There are millions of people just like me, who have problems that our medical industry only makes worse because they are a business and just want the easy way out so they give pills. I finally had enough of that fiasco and quit going to see my doctor. I had seizures when I quit taking the medication they had me on (clonazepam). Anyway I survived. Looking back at all of it the doctors/hospitals, and medication were the hardest thing about it. They made everything worse. I currently use marijuana to treat my PTSD. It works well. Since starting smoking I've almost returned to my old self. I enjoy life and can even go out to eat without having a panic attack.

To anyone that reads this you need to take everything you know about marijuana and throw it out the window. Everything you know about it is false. It should be an individuals decision. Not yours. Thanks for reading.

Please re-evaluate the power of this phenomenal plant that was put here for us to use. Take away some of the power from big pharm. A world-wide monster that is killing is from the inside out. Both physically and financially.

Georgia Levin, Mrs

NCJW

Austin, TX

These bills are directed at women who are in need of desperate help and who are at the mercy of laws that try to criminalize them. This is totally inhuman and unconstitutional! Please do not institute such unnecessary laws.

Chris Griffith

Self

Roanoke, TX

I support this bill. Thank you for consideration.

Angel Herrera

Self/Nutritionist

El Paso, TX

In strict medical terms cannabis is far safer than many foods we commonly consume. Cannabis in its natural form is a plant, it comes from a seed and it's one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to humankind. By any measure of rational analysis cannabis can be safely used within the supervised routine of medical care. With proper regulation and taxation of medical cannabis I support this bill and urge you to as well.

Patrick Denis  
Self/yoga instructor  
Fort Worth, TX

Hello. My name is Patrick Denis. I am a TCUP patient diagnosed with Peripheral neuropathy. I believe there needs to be an expansion to TCUP. The qualifying conditions should be expanded to include ptsd, depression, anxiety disorders and pain related medical issues. I also believe the THC cap needs to be taken away and the dose should be prescribe on a patient by patient basis. Veterans deserve to have their PTSD treated from medical cannabis. As do people who suffer from depression, anxiety, chronic pain conditions and even ADHD.

Terry Strom  
Self  
Morgans Point Resort, TX

support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!"

Randi Campuzano  
self  
Granbury, TX

I certainly hope Texas will legalize Medical Marijuana, which has been proven to have many health benefits and keeps people from needing strong medications for pain, anxiety, and sleep among many other ailments.

Stacey Godwin  
Self  
Pearland, TX

I feel that this is crucial in treating our Texans and everyone without harmful prescriptions that have sickening side effects. The entire cannabis plant is a valuable tool for medical treatment as well as many other uses. All cannabinoids should be available, including THC, because they benefit the body's entire system and promote the body's response to heal itself. This is a needed step in the right direction for our future and our children's to come. Many people can live a full and prosperous life if able to treat their illness with Cannabis. Low-THC will open the door for patients to finally get real relief without some seriously addictive harmful pharmaceutical replacement. Let us have the ability to have the choice to get care that has been scientifically proven to work for the bodies best interests. I am one patient who has suffered chronic pain from a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia for over 13 years. I have suffered from side effects of medication and ended up sicker due to medications. I know in my heart, I would benefit from having the opportunity to be prescribed a low (or high) THC cannabis treatment. I know from research that it will improve my quality of life. Currently I am unable to hold down a job due to the pain and effects of day to day life. I do not qualify for disability either. I am not looking for a way out of getting on my feet, I'm looking for a way to stand on my own feet. This HB 1535 is a step up for people like me. And those who don't even know , but if prescribed low-THC, that their life can improve as well. Please consider our future and what is beneficial for us all is to have access to the entire cannabis plant one step, one bill, at a time to be passed.

Lisa Tolhurst  
self/RN  
Dickinson, TX

Support

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Elizabeth Miller  
Self, disabled attorney  
Bedford, TX

I've been an 'out' cannabis activist and patient for over a decade. My openness has cost me personally, professionally, financially and medically. But I made this conscious choice to live honestly in hopes that my doing so helps speed Texans' access to medical cannabis. I have made great sacrifice to give my testimony to the committee and I appreciate your attention. I thank Chairwoman Klick, the members of the committee, and all who have ever stood up for access to medical cannabis in Texas.

I have one of the genetic Ehlers Danlos Syndromes, or EDS, which leaves me susceptible to a range of health challenges. I use cannabis for chronic pain (joint pain from dislocations/subluxations, nerve pain, muscle pain, migraines, etc), to avoid sleep seizures which would otherwise keep me from REM sleep, to manage PTSD-like injury to my limbic system, for appetite and to avoid wasting, among other reasons. Cannabis seems to help me manage autoimmune and neurological issues, such as the dysautonomia/POTS ('long-haul COVID' is a form of this). I have better mood and cognition with cannabis, which is among the hints suggesting that the endocannabinoid system is somehow at play for those of us in my situation.

These issues are all very common among people with EDS. Many of us rely on cannabis to help manage our chronic illnesses. I'm only somewhat unique in how successful I have been in minimizing my use of other prescription medications and medical intervention, thanks to cannabis. I'm much more sober, capable, healthy, and economical on cannabis than I would be on opioids, benzos, or anticonvulsants.

As it is now, the T.Cup program is not helpful to me and the many people similarly situated. I need THC to manage pain and keep the sleep disorder at bay. What percentage will meet my specific needs? I don't know. I would love to have access to legitimate medicines and cannabis-trained health care professionals, to find out what ideal mix of cannabinoids, at what doses, and with what delivery mechanisms work best for me and others. The Texas market is limited and expensive.

I can't use flower, or I could experience anaphylaxis from the mold. So I must use a black market 'concentrate' and take on the risk of a daily felony. Fear is not healing. My docs have suggested I move out of state, but I don't have that luxury.

My condition is 'rare' and poorly understood. Although it causes neurological issues, including MS-like symptoms, and one's health can certainly degenerate with EDS, it isn't typically classified as a 'neurologically degenerative.' If the Texas legislature decides to manage T.Cup by adding discrete conditions to a list, many people will continue to be left off. Adding chronic pain and PTSD would help.

Please allow patients and doctors to decide how best to use this medicine. Please use the language of medicine (ex: "milligrams"), rather than the language of recreational drug use. Please improve this program before more Texans give up.

Bradley Shadowens  
Self - Network Engineer  
Dallas, TX

It is high time (no pun intended) that Texas legalize the medical use, growth and personal cultivation of marijuana. Medical marijuana has been a multi billion economic boost to our neighbor, Oklahoma. This will also hamstring cartel imported marijuana, pressuring Texas residents to purchase locally grown and legally available marijuana, potentially pricing criminals out of Texas markets.

Kaye Smith  
Self  
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill and believe that it would help diminish the opiate crisis that we are experiencing throughout our nation. I have chronic pain and opiates are my only option at this time. Please vote yes for HB1535

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Nona Kaye Smith

Self

Lewisville, TX

"I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!"

Virginia Day

Self

Lewisville, TX

"I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service!"

Lynn Krasnow

Self

Austin, TX

Vote NO. Respect a woman's right to make decisions on these issues in conjunction with her religious beliefs, her family, and her doctor.

Betty Taylor

self

BROWNWOOD, TX

This bill is not enforceable, and does not provide equal protection for life in the womb. Please instead support HB 3326. Thank you.

Betty Taylor, 4414 Rosewood Drive, Brownwood, Tx 76801

Susan Burek

Self: Retired, Parent, and Advocate

Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill. Thank you.

Gary Saenz

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

It is way pass overdue, please legal marijuana and put a stop to the crimes that persist because of the legislation as it exist today. It is time to move on and let the state collect the tax revenues from a controlled sale and give Texans a choice in the matter; is not that a republic of the people and for the people?

Eric Coleman

Self

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

McGregor, TX

I am disabled and when I was able to live in Colorado my opiate intake was cut by over half. Now that I am back in Texas if I had access to medicinal marijuana my life would be better in my pain would be more manageable

Shari Davis, Ms

Ncjlw

Austin, TX

Oppose

Tanya Winters

Self Volunteer Coordinator

Austin, TX

Please support HB 1535. I have been living with spastic Cerebral Palsy and chronic pain all my life. Currently, I work full time for Travis County Constable Precinct 5 as a Disabled Parking Volunteer Coordinator. Thanks to Compassionate Cultivation and my doctor, medical cannabis is really making a difference in my life:

- It is natural drug that works on my spasms, pain, and anxiety at the same time unlike the pharmaceutical medications I take. This means I can take less medication without consequences. I am more productive at work and I have more energy.
- I don't experience any side effects whereas many of my other medications make me sleepy or nauseous.
- I have better posture because my muscles are more relaxed. I am walking on my crutches more. My flexibility and endurance have improved dramatically. I feel more confident. I worry about falling less and I sleep better.

Please consider these recommendations:

1. Let Doctor Decide on Access and Dosing

Doctors (not lawmakers) should determine whether or not a patient can benefit from medical cannabis. They should also be trusted to make decisions on dosing for their patients. Arbitrary limits on THC hurt vulnerable Texans who need it most.

2. Authorize Independent Labs for Testing and Consumer Protection

There's still no mechanism for independent testing of Compassionate Use Program medicine, which is the only way to truly ensure consumer protection and industry accountability.

3. Protect Physicians

To participate, doctors are required to "prescribe" cannabis, an act that jeopardizes their registration with the DEA and their ability to prescribe controlled substances to any of their patients. To protect them, we need to change the law and allow them to "certify" a patient for the program, rather than "prescribing" cannabis.

4. Protect Patients

There are no patient protections included in this bill. We need to do all we can to protect the vulnerable Texans participating in the Compassionate Use Program. No patient should have their parental rights jeopardized or be disqualified for a job because they use cannabis legally under state law. Gun rights need to be protected and professional licensing should never be compromised because a patient chooses cannabis rather than pharmaceuticals.

Thank you for your time!

Tanya Winters

Tanyawin1@gmail.com

Dannny Granados

Self

Amarillo, TX

As a first responder with chronic pain and mental issues due to the job. I can't stress enough how much this would help.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Krystle Alexander

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

I am a veteran and rated at 100% disability. The VA wants to prescribe me 7 pills a day to manage anxiety, ptsd, insomnia, chronic pain and depression. Please expand cannabis to ALL VETERANS. We are suffering from your wars and pills suck and kill us slowly. Cannabis has zero side effects except hungry, happy, and sleepy. My liver is damaged due to medications and now I refuse to kill my liver (I do not drink alcohol) and I have a very healthy lifestyle and clean diet. I'm literally begging for the right to treat myself without injury to anyone else. These pills will take me away from my children and I am not allowing it.

Jeremy Whittaker, Mr

Self, Retired

El Paso, TX

SUPPORT\* Prior to the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, hemp was legally produced in America. The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 DOES NOT distinguish between industrial hemp and cannabinoids used as medicinal oils and/ or for smoking. Considering the current Opioid crisis in America, and the resulting deaths from overuse of such opioid medications, I believe it is past due for our laws to change, allowing those whose bodies respond well to cannabis use as form of pain management, be legally allowed to do so. Legalize it. Tax it if need be, and be done with it.

David Smith, Mr.

Self/disabled/retired 5th-generation Texan exiled for medical cannabis

Palm Springs, TX

5th-generation Texan, descendant of founder of City of Mesquite, 18-level spinal fusion bolted into the back of my pelvis from scoliosis and multiple surgeries. I became a medical cannabis patient in 2008 during treatment when living in California. Eventually I had to move my 80 year-old mom to live with me in CA because I would risk jail or the denial of pain management care and prescriptions because of the use of helpful cannabis products, which have allowed me to decrease my opioid doses over the past 12 years. This includes non-psychoactive THCa drops, cannabis oil sublingual, and regular old herb to smoke. Prohibition is not based upon any scientific metric whatsoever, as cannabis has been proven to be a superfood that everyone should have access to. Texas prohibition has cost me at least \$100,000 due to the relocation of my elderly mother, who cannot live alone, and is the main reason I can never leave CA again. All restrictions for every adult and patient need to be removed. Full legalization is the only way forward.

Courtney Jack

Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition

Corpus Christi, TX

My name is Courtney Jack. I am 56 years old. I've lived in Texas my entire life.

I have lived with HIV/AIDS over 16 years. In 2004 I was diagnosed with AIDS. My CD4 was 3 and my Viral Load was over 50 million copies. 8 years later in 2012 my CD4 was 401 and my Viral Load was 40. It was only possible because I used Marinol (at first) then had to switch to plant based cannabinoids because the synthetic THC from the Marinol was hurting my liver.

HIV was one of the first Qualifying Conditions ever recognized in regards to Medical cannabis and began the term Compassionate Care. Cannabis helps me with my peripheral neuropathy, nausea, general pain, insomnia, depression, anxiety and has staved off dementia. (All are side effects of HIV and the Antiretrovirals I have been taking to stay alive.)

There has been more research done in regards to Cannabis and HIV than any other illness. As of 2018 there were around 96,000 registered HIV patients in the State of Texas. I am just 1 of them. I know many of them also use Cannabis.

Currently my CD4 is 694 and my Viral Load is 02. I have been able to remain Med Compliant thanks to cannabis. Please add HIV/AIDS as a Qualifying Condition.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Thank you for your time.

Barney Ash

self, retired Iron Worker/ Weldor

Springtown, TX

it is my contention that Texas should join the rest of the civilized world in completely legalizing and decriminalizing Cannabis use and possession. I am a Veteran, disabled and retired from Iron Workers Local #263. I lived in Washington State and Oregon, enjoying the benefits of access to Medical and Recreational Cannabis. I was allowed to grow plants at home. No hassles, no fear of arrest or ostracization from employment- just blessed and total relief from the continuing pain from a mangled hand. Texas had only opioids to offer. The opioids almost killed me, but legal access to safe, effective and non- death inducing Cannabis saved my life.

Your blind following of the outdated, undemocratic and worthless Republican/ Trumpian agenda is perverse and cruel. Must I remain in constant pain because of Dan Patrick? Must I, a voting, taxpaying patriot and Veteran continue to suffer because of the unscientific opinion of Greg Abbott? Must I continue to be treated as a criminal if I were to choose to self medicate and reject the Opioid Addiction your current policies require?

I know you would not consider legalization,. You are too mired in ancient prejudices. But please- for the Love of God, give suffering Texans a little help here?

Melissa Kessner

Melissa Kessner

Katy, TX

The agriculture and freedom state (Texas) needs to review its current policy on THC to help its people.

Diana Camarena

Self

El Paso, TX

I plead that that Texas committee would understand the importance this bill has to some people's lives. I am a mother, wife of a dialysis patient who would occasionally have seizures. Cannabis offers us peace of mind when available. Maybe people in the committee already live with peace of mind. Going on about their daily lives unaffected by anything that could possibly need cannabis to heal. But I'm not. Me and my family live with this every day. And not only that, but in fear that my husband will have to continue to take pills that affect him more than help him. I ask the committee eliminate THC% caps so we no longer have to depend on weaker medicine (CBD). Cannabis at its fullest THC potential is a medicine. We have all seen the videos of people having medical issues and cannabis helping them as if it was some sort of miracle. That's because it is. At least to those who count on it. I also please ask you consider adding and expanding other conditions to this, as many others need it. It doesn't have to be as extreme as dialysis, but others would greatly benefit from it and be able to walk around with just a little bit more peace of mind. As I see my husband struggle with dialysis issues daily, I know that not just anyone can understand what he feels. The only people that come close are doctors and sometimes even they miss. Because of this I also urge y les suplico to allow health care providers to make decisions about when and how much their patients can medicate. Thank you Texas for giving us a voice. Whether it's a small one, it's still a voice. And when you Vote, know that this mother feels a little bit safer at night. If it passes. Thank you again.

Diana Goodwin

Self/disabled with multiple sclerosis

Hooks, TX

Having access to the right strength of medical marijuana can transform my life back to some semblance of normalcy. Current strength helps some but there's a great deal of breakthrough pain. Please help us to help ourselves! Chronic pain is debilitating

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



and, these days, no one wants to prescribe pain meds. We're stuck getting sub-par treatment because no one wants to help. We are not 'drug seeking addicts' or looking to get high constantly.

Thank you.

Piper Lindeen

Self

Sugar Land, TX

As a student of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Masters degree program, I am confident in saying that I am exposed to the latest and most respected practice guidelines for medical cannabis. It has been widely acknowledged, by scientists and government panels time and time again. Cannabis does not pose a significant public health risk. When patients are treated by knowledgeable practitioners, cannabis can be a safe and effective treatment for countless ailments and conditions.

I feel that the state should mandate cannabis curriculum for all of its public medical and nursing programs in order to provide Texans with physicians that are knowledgeable about this topic.

I also feel that it is important that more licenses are made available, in order to give patients a wider variety of options in chemovars. Indeed, more licenses will help to encourage better products and pricing for patients.

Allowing a higher THC content can also help to combat pricing and chemovar issues faced by patients. Having more flexibility in breeding can help patients have more access to what they may need. Currently, we are paying \$400 per month for my son's TCUP medications. I am able to purchase a 7:1 high CBD strain with the appropriate chemotype that helps me to reduce his overall dose, and it costs just \$26 for a 3 month supply. Please consider lifting the THC percentage to 10%, to allow greater flexibility in breeding.

This is a burgeoning field with a great potential for innovation. Texas Medical Center has the opportunity to become a leader in this research, if we only allow it.

Richard May

Texas Citizens

El Paso, TX

Please show Texas Citizens that you truly care, and pass this bill. Texas has been left behind by the rest of the nation. You have been Making Texas look like dinosaur's for far too long it's the 20th century and Texas is still in the 1900's. Your citizens want the right to be able to choose what medication we want ! Texas needs to step up in a big way and open dispensaries and allow it's citizens the right to the medication they need.

Shawn Camacho, Sr

Self

El Paso, TX

There is more to this plant than medicine for human consumption, but medicine for the world. A stop drilling for oil for plastics but use hemp for every aspect in going green . Cannabis is the medicine for the world , not just the human race but the living and breathing earth.

Joshua Thompson

Pinnacle Essentials

Cedar Park, TX

I am the first tax paying LEGAL salesman and largest educator of delta 8 THC in Texas, without one bad personal experience with any of my customers BUT countless physician consented and supervised documented positive ones. The amount of clear, public and available academia on the topic of THCs medical applications is amazing. Here are links to credible academia that

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

proves THC's medicinal use:

THC treatment for children's chemo nausea (anti convulsant) "An efficient new cannabinoid antiemetic in pediatric oncology" 100% effective, no known side effects (not new known since the 1940s):

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/7776837/>

THC treatment for MS and Parkinson's: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29923025/>

THC treatment for brain tumor, antiemetic, analgesic, possibility for wide range of treatments  
<https://academic.oup.com/nop/article/4/3/151/2918616>

Lung Cancer:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1159836/>

Patent for brain tumor treatment:

<https://patents.google.com/?q=Thc&assignee=8&oq=Thc+8>

Treatment for wide range of tumors:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24039449/>

Patent for converting delta 8 from CBD (how this is made similar to most synthetics)

<https://patents.google.com/?q=Thc&assignee=8&oq=Thc+8>

Valarie White, Citizen

Self

El Paso, TX

Please help those in most need of our natural medicine.

Pharmaceuticals kill and are addictive, I've had family members die and become addicted taking them. No one dies using cannabis and no one gets addicted.

Christina Macias, Medicine

Self

El Paso, TX

Hello, I am here regarding the Law on Medicinal Marijuana. It is a very healthy plant that can assist in different health issues. I, myself, deal with Severe manic depression, PTSD, and Bipolar disorder. The medications provided by big Pharma always make me feel even more sick than I really need to feel. They even state that stopping your psychosis medications can lead to death. The drugs that are given to me for my anxiety and severe mental disability make me feel like I'm a complete zombie. I do not enjoy the feeling so I would rather take no pills and leave my body feeling the way it naturally does. I have to confide in my mind every day, and hope that meditation and God will help me through my daily activities, including work. Please don't put a cap on Marijuana, it is a medicine that I am in desperate access to and I can't even get it. So many people deal with pain issues, so many people deal with mental issues. I feel like I'm in a cage, I feel like I do not have access to the only thing that may keep me healthy. Please stop making us suffer. Please.

This can also create jobs, and hemp can replace so many things we use on a daily basis. This plant is an opportunity for our bodies and our home.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Thank you for taking the time to read my small statement. I really hope Texas makes a big step toward a big opportunity.

Travis Maynard, Sr

Just a Texan wanting change

Haskell, TX

I would like to start off with medical cannabis should be tailor made for the patients not left to someone who doesn't need or use it to decides I think it should be up to the patient someone with seizure like a small child who can benefit from CBD and has no desire or need for THC is different from someone who is suffering from terminal cancer I think a doctor and the patient or patient's parent should be able to determine what level of THC is appropriate I'm hoping one day the plant will be legal in general for anyone who desires to use it responsible can without fear of persecution you can't be a functional member of society because of it just getting caught can result in someone losing their job kids everything it's time for change I'll take what I can get as long as it's in the right direction if anyone happens to read this I appreciate your time thank you

Deborah Washam, Mrs

Myself

Mansfield, TX

I am a 58 year old grandmother that has never smoked a joint in my life! That being said there are too many medical conditions that this herb could be used to treat, this should never have been labeled a Schedule 1 drug. It is time to use this for what God intended it.

? Allow Doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

? Move from percentage based dosing to weight based dosing like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

? Protect doctors from federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule I controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

? Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

? Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program.

Thank you for considering this important medical issue!

Juan Carlos Soto

Self

Runge, TX

Please add PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Chronic pain for people who are not veterans, I was severely injured on March 30, 2014 a suspension from a semi truck hit me directly in the face crushing my right eye socket, broke my jaw and peeled off my cheek and i have a scar from laceration that is about 8 inches long on my right cheek from my right eye socket close to my mouth. I still have recurring nightmares of the accident and it's been 7 years and about a week more or less, and I need this for the constant pain i feel from the titanium plates that are holding my face together. My right eye came out of my skull and had to have surgery so the doctors could place it back in the orbital eye socket that was replaced with titanium and a rubber eyes socket that has been removed now except for the titanium plates and screws. I was airlifted from Karnes county to brook army medical center, where they performed many surgeries, and i slipped into a comma for a month i think it was, then i had to live in 3 different rehabs from 2014 up until the beginning of 2019 when i was released. I had to learn how to walk, talk, and learn basic

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

functions like a young child, I suffer with pain on a daily basis, please add my condition to the Texas Compassionate act, I'm not a veteran but my doctors said i suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury , and chronic pain. I'll be honest I went to New Mexico to visit some family members for the holidays and while i was there all I did was smoke medicinal marijuana while i was there not taking any of my prescriptions my doctor has me on, and when i returned back to Texas my lab results showed my health improved by 80% so I rather use cannabis that pharmaceutical medications, because in the long run, man made pills have more side effects than medical cannabis. Please I ask you all to please make this accessible to non veterans like me, thank you for your time and patients, good luck with the voting, have a wonderful and blessed day.

Renee Sabel

Self

San Antonio, TX

Medical cannabis is a safe and effective option for many people. We should legalize it without people having to go through hoops. I support this as a first step.

Leotis Hightower

Houstons CBD

Fresno, TX

As a veteran that has served this nation and has been left with prescribed medications that caused more harm to my body than good. Cannabis has been the herb that has enabled me to function and be a productive citizen. I have been forced to go to bordering states to take my money for a better quality of life. I'm really considering in leaving this great state just to maintain my quality of life. I'm constantly helping many veterans and like me they all states cannabis has been the deciding factor in living or dying. Please pass a comprehensive bills that benefit veterans and the public.

Jamie Crawford

self, Program Manager

Dripping Springs, TX

I support the expansion of access to medical Cannabis.

My own father has benefitted greatly from New Mexico's Program. My father-in-law, a Texas disabled veteran who recently passed from terminal cancer, strongly supported and would have benefitted greatly from the expansion of this program. These are only two of the closest examples to me, but I have numerous examples among my friends and family (across the political spectrum) who would support and benefit from the expansion of the Compassionate Use program.

The fact that it has taken so long for our state to move forward is shortsighted. Now that it is clear that this issue has broad cross-partisan political support, and broad, legitimate medical benefits, ignoring the need to improve this program would simply be cruel.

Your support would mean a meaningful and tangible benefit to those who need it the most.

Thank you for your consideration

Michael Thompson

self

Mico, TX

needs to be expanded

Abigail OConnor

Self

Austin, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

I support THC medical applications

Cinthia Ortiz

Self

Irving, TX

We need to support other medical options. This will be a step in the right direction

Sarah Krause

Self disabled

Houston, TX

I was a social worker for 20 years before being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. It has left me with crippling chronic pain. I am now tolerant of opioid pain killers and can not take them anymore. I am even thinking of moving to a state with medical marijuana though all my family live her. I actually really love TEXAS. I truly believe that wising the medical marijuana law here in TEXAS is the most compassionate thing you could do. Politics aside, in your heart you know it's the right thing to do. Please

Mabel Terminel

Self

El Paso, TX

Opposed to this gross overreach of government authority over women's bodies and autonomy

James Casillas, Mr.

Self

Iowa Park, TX

My wife could benefit greatly from this and so could my uncle. My uncle had a stroke 3-4 yrs ago and is in so much pain if I tries to walk to the store 4 blocks down the rd and back, as for my wife she has chronic pain and has a hard time sleeping. We have many fellow Texans with the same if not worse conditions. It can treat so many illnesses, depression, lack of appetite, and much more the rest of the U.S. is beginning to see this so I hope that we as Texans can soon fallow suit.

Rhonda Bourke

Self

Midland, TX

I suffer from chronic pain, and other debilitating illnesses that could be controlled with medical Marijuana rather than pharmaceutical drugs. Please reconsider your stance on approval for medical Marijuana. So many people could benefit from it.

Eric Montoya

A concerned life long Texas Lubbockite

Lubbock, TX

As a diabetic I have neuropathy pain and the side effects of nerve meds they have put me on have made me sick and though cannabis use is still illegal in this state which is beyond me I still use cannabis to help with my pain and it works wonders it's my hope along with millions of others who have chronic illness in this state that the Texas Government would have some empathy

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

and compassion towards us and allow us to medicate NATURALLY

Jacob Wiggins

Self

Houston, TX

Epilepsy treatment needed

Jeffrey Teller

Self/Sales Mgt

Dallas, TX

Having lived in Texas for more than 12 years now I've come to love this state but for such an incredible place we are far behind many states that already have medical cannabis helping countless conditions including drug addiction. For me personally I suffer from chronic debilitating pain from cervical spine injury. I will not and cannot take strong pain medicine it would simply make me non functional and unable to do my job effectively. Cannabis is the only thing that has given me relief, the ability to sleep and has quite possibly saved my life. That may seem to sound extreme but people say that to their Doctors all the time about medications. Not as much with pain medication though. We all know that. It's common knowledge and quite scary yet no restrictions there. We are not trying to stop pharmaceuticals. Medical cannabis is medicine that is healing. Countless studies show it. An actual system in our body has receptors for it. State after state. Country after country have had tremendous success thousands are recorded and studied and even more anecdotal. My story is not some miracle to share it is a simple account of my personal experience one that has helped me and many people I know for so many varied purposes. Without side effects without danger. What's important though is to be able to obtain it the right way, with licensed dispensaries and knowledgeable and informed Doctors and professionals to find the precise dosing and method of consumption. Why would such a great state like Texas where everyone around us geographically has an advanced medical program want to be left so behind? . We have some of the most incredible farmland. World renowned Drs and specialists who are advocating for its use and implementation here. Why would we want to restrict that.? The benefits have proven to far outweigh any negatives . The opportunities it can provide so many great Texans working on farms, in retail and advocacy. We would lead the way. I've learned Texas does do things bigger and better we are proud of that. Why wouldn't we want to have the biggest medical program in the country. ? This bill is start. Texas needs to move beyond an embarrassing medical program that leaves far too many people suffering. I want to be a part of that. I want to be proud of what Texas can show the rest of the world but first we have to move forward. This is the time. People need help and we can do it.

WILLIAM TOOLEY

SELF US Army veteran three tours in Iraq

Harker Heights, TX

I support this legislation, but wish it went further to expand the Compassionate Use Program. Thank you for your consideration and service! I also want to add that I'm not able to consume marijuana because it is currently illegal for me to do so. I have multiple diagnosis related to my service ranging from PTSD,cervical spine injuries, arthritis in both feet,ankles and knees. I take anti-depressants,anti-inflammatory meds and ambien to sleep every day. Expanding the medical medical marijuana in Texas would not only have an effect in Texas but it would also have a significant impact at the federal level putting press on the current and future presidential administrations to decriminalize marijuana. The medicines that I take everyday is not health for long periods of time. I comment to this legislation early but it wasn't very detail. Thank you for your time. Please read my meds list below.

GABAPENTIN 300MG CAP  
MELOXICAM 7.5MG TAB  
MIRTAZAPINE 30MG TAB  
ZOLPIDEM 10MG TAB  
LIDOCAINE PATCH 5%

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Phillip Palmer

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony/statement in favor of HB1535 by Chair Klick.

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee

I am strongly in favor of strengthening the Compassionate Use Act, as people have the right to seek treatment for conditions that cause chronic pain, seizures, etc. It isn't the role of the legislature to determine what treatments people in constant pain or other health difficulties should have access to.

I have experienced tremendous and inescapable pain, and this experience has taught me a valuable lesson in the form of sympathy for my fellow man.

As a long time Republican voter, I applaud this bill and encourage and ask members to vote this bill out of committee to the floor for a vote.

Plank 256 of the Republican Party of Texas platform states: "We call upon the Texas Legislature to improve the 2015 Compassionate Use Act to allow doctors to determine the appropriate use of cannabis for their patients."

I would respectfully ask that the following improvements be considered and implemented:

Allow doctors to practice medicine by authorizing them to determine the optimal strength and dosage for each individual patient's medical needs. This means there should be no list of qualifying conditions/symptoms, nor any THC cap, both of which restrict a doctor's ability to properly treat their patients.

Move from percentage based dosing to weight based dosing, like other prescription medicines. Doctors should be able to recommend how many milligrams of THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids a patient needs, rather than using a complicated formula to determine weight from the percentage restriction.

Protect doctors from Federal interference by allowing them to "recommend" (not "prescribe") low-THC cannabis, which is still a Schedule 1 controlled substance. This is how all 36 states with effective medical cannabis laws operate.

Establish patient protections to eliminate the threat of arrest, prosecution, or penalty, in any manner. These protections cover any denial of right or privilege, civil penalty, or disciplinary action, by a court or occupational licensing entity. Parental rights should never be denied, and students cannot be subject to any form of discipline solely because of possession or use of their legal medicine.

Authorize independent, third-party testing by certified labs for consumer protection and industry accountability. Currently, no independent lab can test medicine dispensed under the Compassionate Use Program.

Members and staff of the committee are welcome to contact me with with any questions regarding my statements.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Joe Palmer

Fort Worth, Texas

CHRISTOPHER Dombrowski

None/Self; Technical Analyst II

San Antonio, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

I am in favor of this bill as it will be a starting point to allow expanding a needed service, that saves lives and provides good quality of life to people with a bleak outlook. This could have provided help for my own mother whom passed away in 2014 at 88lbs. From severe osteoarthritis at 60 years old after battling the medical condition and attempting many pain management therapies which eventually led to an opiate and chemical dependency which led to internal issues, and had multiple doctors inform (wisper) her, medicinal marijuana would be a viable option if they were allowed to recommend & perscribe. Instead she was provided a script for a pain med and a medicine to prevent opiate related side effects, and take your chances with internal bleeding and addiction. This could be an opportunity to regulate and control at adequate levels if even for social research. Please consider this as an option for Texas.

Dystany Eisenberg

Self, Sales

El Paso, TX

I approve it is time to learn more about how this can benefit Texans and it is time to stop wasting jail space for real criminals. Also this should not be a reason to remove parents from their children. This has shown how it has helped many people medically and mentally. There is a history of how this item was legal and proof that the reason it was considered illegal was through lies. When it was legal there was no problem and it was used and many healing medicines already. So much proof behind how cannabis has helped people in many ways. There are many smart people who have proven they can use cannabis to excel. It's the fact that someone wasn't happy about people using it they caused problems for cannabis users. However a vet with PTSD has to suffer because this one person said that they cannot use the one thing that makes them feel an ounce of relief. On top of that, the sales in the cannabis industries have caused cities to excel in the profit they get. It's time for a change a chance to see how Texas can succeed in the industries and the capability to lock up real criminals. Give people the freedom to use in the open with the proper paperwork and not fear that they can lose their children or job and live a life of reduced or no pain. It is time to also learn what other health benefits cannabis can offer. This should not be a reason to remove a child or children from their parents because this is not abuse it has been said that it makes parents want to play with their kids more.

Jeff Popp

Self / Paramedic (disabled)

Crowley, TX

At 0830 hrs, 18 June 2015, my 30 year career as a 911 Paramedic ended. I went to work that morning and responded to my first call of the day, a "Seizure". We arrived to find a young adult male somewhat confused and anxious. He was non verbal, but followed simple commands. My partner and 2 students assisted the patient to the ambulance while I interviewed his girlfriend. She let me know that morning he had been taking the drug known as "Bath Salts" (Flakka) and has not been acting right. As I entered the ambulance to take care of the patient I let him know his girlfriend had let me know he had taken some drugs and without warning he immediately punched me in the throat and put me in a headlock where I remained for 21 minutes. It took 2 Fort Worth Police officers and 4 Fort Worth Firefighters to get me from his grip. He also bit me just inches above my groin as if he was trying to bite a chunk of meat out of me. Fast forward to current times. I have had multiple surgeries, released from my job of 25 years, lost a home and vehicle, and have been on pain management since with no end in sight, only worsening conditions. I take 30mg Morphine twice a day and 15mg Oxycodone three times a day. Those are just the opioids. I am dependant on them just to get out of bed in the morning and to get back into bed at night. I am very familiar with the individual drugs I take and I not only experience the side effects, but I fear the chronic effects. I will never be able to return to my career. The quality of my life will never be the same. Then I can tell y'all all day about the nightmares and night terrors I experience from PTSD related to the 30 years dealing with things that no human should have to be subjected to. I am a Veteran of the U.S. Navy, but the only war I was involved in was the "Cold War". Fortunately I am able to receive psychiatric care from the VA, but there is only so much they can do with pharmacologic intervention (again, acute side effects and anticipated chronic effects weigh very heavy on my life). It is not a mystery that Marijuana has been found to benefit the treatment of Chronic pain and PTSD. It is undoubtedly a much safer and "healthier" alternative to opioids and many psych medications. The facts have been ignored and denied for far too long. Me and folks like me are desperate for your help and understanding.

Stacey King

Self -Home Healthcare Aide/CNA

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM



Haltom City, TX

Thank you for your time. My name is Stacey King. I suffer from PTSD and seizures. I am also a caregiver to a disabled veteran with chronic pain, PTSD and other medical issues.

We have traveled to legal states to see if cannabis gives him a better quality of life. I higher doses of THC helped him function a a productive person in society. It also helped him with his pain and anxiety.. for 30 days at a time when out of state he is able to stay off all pharmaceuticals besides his asthma inhaler.

I watch this gentleman suffer every day with pain when unable to use cannabis. The VA wants to prescribe him high doses of addictive narcotics and anti anxiety medicine.

My husband who passed away in 2017 was a disabled vet who became quadriplegic and had many medical issues until the day he passed away. He medically with cannabis before he passed keeping himself off opiates.

I myself suffer with seizures that happen once or twice a month but can limit what I do and prevent me from driving. I have found personally I have success with THC/CBD/CBN. It limits my need for gabapentin and vailum.

I have volunteered with disabled veteran sports teams and with PVA fundraisers or functions. I have heard the support and desires of our vets to at least try medical cannabis. These people fight for our freedoms to not have the freedom of how to medicate. We deserve to give that at least to them.

I ask you kindly to please consider extending our compassionate use program.

Teresa Harris, Mrs

Self Retired Elementary Education Teacher

Austin, TX

Greetings, I respectfully submit my shorten tale of woe. I will be 70 years old in September. In 2009, I was diagnosed with New Daily Persistent Headache with Dizziness. It is rare and I am in debilitating pain and dizziness every day, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no medications to treat it because there are not enough of us who suffer with this disease, and the pharmaceutical companies are not creating medication to relieve our pain. I don't understand that. It is for this reason, I plead to add my type of headache which causes me severe daily chronic pain from levels 7 to 9 out of 10 to the Texas Compassionate Use Program in the Chronic Pain designation. I live with severe depression and I have to pray my way back to life and endure the pain. Some days I worry I am not going to make it. On those days that I feel hopeless and helpless, I feel suicidal but I remember my family and I know I can't do that to them. In the years since I was diagnosed, I have seen 20 neurologists and pain management doctors, where I received countless pain medications, ketamine infusions, biofeedback, Botox, trigger point injections, magnesium infusions, bilateral temporal artery biopsy, valproate, keppra and vimpat infusions, P stims, facet blocks, spinal taps, radio frequency ablations, microcurrent therapy, TMJ treatment, opioids, physical therapy, cervical medial branch blocks, occipital nerve blocks, etc. I started oxycodone on June 22, 2018, it took away my headache and dizziness but after about 5 months, the doctor had reached the point that to increase my dosage would go into what is prescribed to cancer patients and he felt uncomfortable doing that. I asked him to take a chance because I never abused the drug under his or any other doctors care, but he would not. The headache and dizziness returned and I have been living with the severe headache and dizziness since then. I have been with absolutely no pain medication since November 23, 2018 except Tylenol which I use as an, I hope this helps this time. It never does. I have seen at least 10 psychologists and psychiatrists because I'm trying to keep my head above water because the pain is 24 hours a day, every day. It is severe and unrelenting. I went to the renowned MHNI in Ann Arbor, MI inpatient for a month. I was infused with various medications daily, trigger point injections, therapy etc. MHNI notes that my type of headache "can continue for years and even decades after onset and be extremely disabling to the individual. It is considered one of the most difficult headaches to treat. Some patients do not improve despite aggressive treatment. Pain can occur anywhere in the head. Pain is usually throbbing or pressing in quality, with symptoms such as nausea, light and sound sensitivity, lightheadedness." I have described my life for the past 12 years. Please add Chronic Pain to the Compassionate Use Program and allow me to live my last few years productive and pain free.

Rebecca Arnett, Mother

Self

Cactus, TX

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Good Morning Representatives, Please consider this Bill for every citizen in the State of Texas, that is suffering from horrific medical conditions, in addition to the Doctors that are subscribing opioids to patients with chronic pain, medical cannabis would be a better alternative option to subscribe with less side affects. I'm one of those patients, that has been suffering with A.S. An Fibromyalgia for the past eleven years.I take a lot of pill prescribed medication, I'd like to be able to have another option to help with my chemotherapy an managed pain treatment. Please Representatives consider an pass this Bill for citizens like me that suffer daily in Our State of Texas! Give us the right and option. Thank You!

Jessica Stepinoff

self

DALLAS, TX

THC should be available to any adult for any reason, no medical reasoning needed. As a Satanist, my religious liberties are being denied by the racist laws which prohibit me from putting whatever substance into my body that I want, at whatever time that I want. The Satanic Temple has a list of seven tenets all Satanists must follow, including:

II The struggle for justice is an ongoing and necessary pursuit that should prevail over laws and institutions.

III One's body is inviolable, subject to one's own will alone.

IV The freedoms of others should be respected, including the freedom to offend. To willfully and unjustly encroach upon the freedoms of another is to forgo one's own.

V Beliefs should conform to one's best scientific understanding of the world. One should take care never to distort scientific facts to fit one's beliefs.

As one can see from the core tenets listed, my religious rights are being trampled on by the laws which restrict my bodily autonomy and this is not based on science, all of which is a clear violation of the above tenets and interferes with my freedom of religion. My bodily autonomy ends where harm can be caused to others, so just like with alcohol and other legal drugs there already exist laws to protect from operating machinery, neglecting a child, etc while under the influence. There is no need to prevent adults from responsibly experimenting with any drug, much less such a relatively safe one such as marijuana. As Tenet II states the struggle against these draconian, racist laws must continue until all the decrepit ghouls who continue to uphold my religious oppression are defeated.

Ashley Gerow

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a Texan & Veteran, I believe the right thing to do is legalize marijuana in my home state so I do not have to seek medical treatment in neighboring states. I'm not a criminal, I just want pain relief from the couple military induced surgeries and PTSD.

Lynette Brannon, Ms.

Self Therapeutic Bodywork and Relaxation

AUSTIN, TX

Compassionate Cultivation Testimony

HB 1535

The treatment I have received from Compassionate Cultivation has been positive, safe, and successful. Medical cannabis has been long-awaited for my medical conditions and has provided much relief for me. I have had multiple brain traumas, injuries from a car wreck, and have had anesthesia. These events have resulted in inflammation of the brain tissue, neurological injuries and imbalances. As a result of my injuries, I have experienced reduced brain function and dizziness that has been chronic for approximately twenty years.

My neurologist prescribed Compassionate Cultivation's medical marijuana for me. This is the first thing that has produced results. There have not been any medications that work on my conditions and I am very allergic to most medicine if there were.

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

The benefits to my brain, health, life and general well-being are solid and continue to improve. Compassionate Cultivation is the foundation for my brain care and I believe it will be so for years to come.

Please vote yes for HB 1535. Any changes to the Compassionate Use Program could open possibilities so that additional patients could be helped, and more diagnosis can be added. More Texans could get healthier and happier!

Thank you for your time and interest for this important measure.

Sincerely,  
Lynette Brannon  
Native Texan

Linda Starkey

Self

CONROE, TX

I have many chronic medical conditions that would be benefited from passing this bill. I have Crohn's disease an extremely high pain related to bone an joint pain from a major motorcycle accident an the Crohn's disease that would really benefit from this bill. An I could stop taking so many other medications that even with Medicare is extremely difficult to pay for an not to mention all the chemicals in the medicine I am having to take daily. One medicine requires me to have an infusion every 8 weeks Remicade an was told my copay would be 3000.00 for one infusion. But I dont qualify for any of the programs that I have found at would help pay for them. My husband is a disabled Veteran an has had chronic pain from many back Surgeries now just had neck surgery removing 2 disc in his neck. Neither of us want to keep taking all the opioid medications we are taking. Please Please consider this bill for those of us who do not want to be opioid dependent. Thank you for your time. SINCERELY Linda Starkey

Neesha Davé, Ms.

Lilith Fund

Austin, TX

We oppose HB 1515.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would ban abortion in the state when cardiac activity is detectable, typically around 6-weeks gestation, before many Texans even know they are pregnant. The bill's civil cause of action will promote frivolous and harassing lawsuits against medical providers and anyone else who helps patients access care.

It takes time for someone to confirm a pregnancy and consider their options. As an abortion fund, we hear from Texans every day who are struggling to navigate the numerous existing restrictions on abortion in Texas. From the cost of the procedure itself, to the mandatory 24 hour waiting period, and often extensive travel required to get to a clinic that provides care, all of these barriers cause delays and would make it virtually impossible for Texans to access abortion care before 6 weeks.

Instead of advancing dangerous policies that deny the people of Texas health care and robs them of the freedom to make their own choices without the government interfering, lawmakers should advance policies that actually address Texans' needs.

The creation of a civil cause of action—that would allow anyone in the state of Texas to sue an abortion provider, an abortion fund, or anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of the statute, whether or not they were connected to the patient or provider—would promote frivolous and harassing lawsuits against medical providers and anyone else who helps patients access care. Abortion is health care and should be fully accessible to all Texans, and until every Texan can access abortion care without restrictions, abortion funds like ours are a vital support system for Texans navigating unnecessary and extreme barriers to health care. Everyone should be able to make their own choices about if, whether, and when to carry a pregnancy to term and become a parent without politicians or anti-abortion extremists interfering.

We urge the committee to oppose HB 1515.

Shontinique Kay  
self, grad student

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

San Antonio, TX

Agreed. Especially for people who are terminally ill.

Vance Adams

Citizen

Longview, TX

I am a 59 year old male who suffers from chronic pain caused by degenerative disk disease and also osteoarthritis. I also have COPD. I believe that the passing of a medical marijuana bill could benefit people like me. I was once enrolled in a pain management program where I was prescribed opioids for my pain. After several years of being in this program I found myself being addicted to my medication. I decided for my own health I needed to get off of my medication so I decided to try to substitute my opioids with marijuana. I was able to control my pain with a small amount of marijuana. I also felt better health wise by doing so. I was able to sleep better and also got my appetite back for I was not sleeping or eating well while taking the opioids. But I was concerned about I was doing something illegal. I believe a person should be able to use something that will help him control his pain with a substance that is not physically addictive and safer than opioids. There is also evidence that THC oil is very effective in treating COPD for it opens up your airway which helps you breathe. Please consider all the benefits for passing this bill. There are so many people like me who become addicted to pain medications just trying to manage their pain and have a better quality of life and with this bill passed can use cannabis instead to manage their pain and have a better quality of life.

Peggy Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am for this bill and have personally experienced the benefits of CBDs

Pat Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am for this bill as I can attest to the benefits of CBDs for regulating my blood sugar

Michelle Kobel

Self

Aransas Pass, TX

PTSD and PTSD-C is not only a veterans condition or disorder. Traumas and traumatic events happen to every and anybody. Why are we excluding those of us who suffer from PTSD and just limiting to the vets? Seems unfair and leaving out patients who can use Cannabis as a way to alleviate PTSD trauma, stress, anxiety, depression, flashbacks and many other symptoms of PTSD.

I am a 27 year career RN who suffers from PTSD. I was diagnosed in 2018. Yet, I take no pharmaceuticals as I know all too well of the side effects of these harsh prescription meds working in the healthcare field. I've seen the sedating dangerous effects first hand. I use cannabis instead and my life is very productive. Without it and being on pharmaceuticals, I would have a less quality of life by all the side effects. Please change the PTSD qualifier to everyone instead of vets only. Just because I am not a veteran, does not make my PTSD any less, PTSD has the same criteria and symptoms no matter who has been diagnosed with it.

Thank you

Michelle Kobel, RN

Printed on: April 23, 2021 3:10 PM

Ethan Sewell

self

Waco, TX

I don't support this legislation you did nothing at all.

Stuart Sanders

self

Georgetown, TX

Please step out of the way and let scientist, doctors, and patients access to cannabis for research and medicine. Remove the barriers that years of fear and intimidation from law enforcement have put upon a god given plant. Cannabis is now legal both recreationally and medically in a vast majority of states and has shown promising results in both reducing opiate addictions and controlling pain symptoms. Our veterans and citizens deserve access to this plant. Opiates, prescription drugs, and alcohol kill hundreds of thousands of people every year, and there has yet to be a single documented case of overdose from Cannabis. It is time Texas moves into the 21st century regarding Cannabis laws and I fully support passage of HB 1535.

Monica Chandler

Self

Ingleside, TX

I was denied to be evaluated for medical marijuana because my illness aren't listed. This is unfair and I would rather take/have marijuana than pills. Pills kill