

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 1805

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Hearing Date: March 13, 2023 9:00 AM

Elizabeth Miller

self, activist

Bedford, TX

Thanks to the Chair, committee, and staff for your past/present/future work on this issue.

Respectfully, the current TCUP program is overly narrow and leaves out many Texans who would benefit from cannabis as medicine. My circumstances help demonstrate TCUP's limitations.

I have an uncommon connective tissue disease, Hypermobile Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (hEDS), that involves difficulties using collagen and leads to a host of comorbidities, including pain, dysautonomia/POTS, and autoimmune, mast cell, neurological, GI, and skin issues.

I started using cannabis for chronic pain and sleep seizures. And then I realized how much it unexpectedly improves a host of other issues. Medicine doesn't have a better answer for appetite than cannabis.

I avoid many traditional Rx by using cannabis as medicine, including, but not limited to, opioids, NSAIDs, muscle relaxants, anticonvulsants, and GI meds. I'm on an extraordinarily short list of medications, particularly for someone with the long-but-common list of issues I deal with secondary to hEDS.

And, yet, there is exactly nothing special or 'rare' about me and my situation. Quite the contrary. You each have constituents like me.

Like many, I can't use cannabis through combustion (smoking). Like many, I have historically struggled with vaporizing flower bud cannabis, because MCAS could cause an anaphylactic response. (I haven't had the luxury of trying to vaporize medical grade flower cannabis, so perhaps it wouldn't be a problem?) I can't metabolize edible THC, because I've got a defective enzyme (also not uncommon) so edibles are not an option for me. Even if I could metabolize THC, because of gastroparesis (common among EDS/others), I can't predictably digest edible medicine or large amounts without issues. The added ingredients in edibles could cause a MCAS response. Even if I could metabolize, digest and tolerate the currently permissible forms, I could not afford the amount of low-THC medicine I would require.

I must inhale pure, unadulterated, vaporized medicine. I'm stuck using black market medicine that is a Texas felony, in any amount. I must be habitually felonious in order to function well enough to appear in front of you, even though inhalation is a scientifically, medically, and clinically sound method of medication, as any cannabis-trained clinician/physician/provider/scientist can confirm. Vapor is often preferable, because it offers better titration and, hence, the potential for a lower overall dose.

Nothing about my situation is unique. You all have constituents with these same issues and constraints, and more. Not all enjoy the privilege of being able to state the matter as openly as I. I'm taking a calculated risk, hoping that you'll listen to me on behalf of your constituents who must remain mute.

HB 1805 improves the matter, but, respectfully, we need a medical cannabis program that is accessible to all Texans, regardless of their income or disability. Thank you.

Linda Logan
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on this bill. My name is Linda Logan. I am the Senior Public Policy Analyst at the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD).

TCDD is established by state and federal law and is governed by 27 board members, appointed by the Governor, 60% of whom are individuals with developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Council's purpose in law is to encourage policy change so that people with disabilities have opportunities to be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

HB 1805 will benefit individuals with disabilities by:

- Redefining "Low-THC cannabis" to include preparations containing up to 5 percent by weight of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), the active ingredient shown to be therapeutic for a range of conditions outlined in the existing law;
- Broadening the conditions for which low-THC cannabis can be used to include a condition that causes chronic pain, for which a physician would otherwise prescribe an opioid; and
- Including in the conditions for which low-THC cannabis can be used for a debilitating medical condition designated by the Department of State Health Services in its rules.

These changes are consistent with medical findings about the efficacy of low-THC cannabis and provide a valuable substitute for opioids. By enabling the Department of State Health Services to designate medical conditions for which a physician can prescribe low-THC in its rules, the bill provides a way for the list of eligible conditions to be updated as medical findings emerge between legislative sessions.

Jax James, Executive Director
Texas NORML
AUSTIN, TX

Chronic pain: Dozens of peer-reviewed studies show that, for many patients prescribed opioids, cannabis can act as a substitute. In fact, several studies now show that patients enrolled in medical cannabis access programs reduce or even eliminate their use of opioids, and sometimes other prescription medications as well, over time.

Other data also indicates that cannabis may reduce substance-related cravings in various subjects, which may improve clinical outcomes among those seeking treatment for opioid abuse disorder. With opioid overdose deaths having risen more than fourfold since 1999, it is imperative that lawmakers and public health experts approach this issue with an open mind and be willing to entertain all potential alternatives. You can find an extensive list of supporting studies and data here:

<https://norml.org/marijuana/fact-sheets/relationship-between-marijuana-and-opioids/>

THC cap from 1% to 5% : One of the most important aspects of the increase in THC percentage by dry weight is that it will decrease the amount of carrier oil/products that the patient has to ingest, which often can cause side effects. Currently, 99% of what the patients is having to ingest to reach their prescribed dosage are these carrier oils/products. Just as conventional medicines are readily available in a variety of strengths and potencies in order to meet individual patients' needs, cannabis products should also be available in varying potencies and formulations for those individuals who use cannabis medicinally. Patients deserve access to the medicine they rely on. Furthermore, regardless of its potency or how it is consumed, THC cannot cause legal overdose. In fact, the FDA currently regulates the production and sale of dronabinol, a pill containing 100 percent THC. Several years ago, the agency rescheduled this drug from schedule II to schedule III because of its remarkable safety profile. There is no evidence suggesting detrimental impacts of a higher concentration of THC. For example, several studies have found that there is no causal link between high potency cannabis use and psychosis. Data published in the journal Adicciones found that initially identified associations between cannabis use and psychosis were no longer present once researchers controlled for confounding variables such as socioeconomic status, alcohol use, tobacco smoking, and comorbid psychopathology. You can find a list of supporting studies and data here: <https://norml.org/thc-potency-concerns-are-stronger-products-more-problematic/>

Allowing for the Department of State Health Services to add qualifying condition:

A patient's treatment options should not be limited by the government, but rather should be determined in confidence between a patient and their doctor. By allowing doctors rather than legislators decide who can benefit from medical cannabis, we honor that relationship. Furthermore, patients who desperately need access to this plant should not have to wait every 2 yrs

Jesse Williams

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill and support adding non smoking inhalation methods, along with optional TCUP identification in state ID for patients enrolled in the program.

Samantha Hamby

Self unemployed

McKinney, TX

I have suffered through 38 years of Trauma, Sexual Abuse , & Physical Abuse from both sides of my family. I have multiple mental diagnoses and I am currently undergoing extensive Trauma Therapy with a team of Mental Health professionals. My traumas have crippled my ability to function in a world and society in which I panic and fear for my safety in even the most casual situations. I struggle with being able to work for even 2 hours. I do have supporting documentations from Life Path Facilities in Colin County Texas .

Margarita A Prieto

Consilio LLC

Austin, TX

For

dianna biskan

self

Plano, TX

Absolutely not in favor of increasing THC in medical marijuana.....NO No NO.....these proposed doses are too strong and dangerous. This dosage is higher than in the 60's, 70's and 80's. We cannot endorse that.....defeat HB 1805
Dianna

Peggy Harris

Self

The Woodlands, TX

More Compassionate care would result for those suffering. I strongly endorse this bill.

Sarah Wilpitz, Mrs.

self/homemaker

Dallas, TX

I am in opposition to this bill. I oppose the inclusion of medical marijuana "low-THC cannabis" increasing to 5% in this bill. The 1% limit already in law is unnecessary and irresponsible. I further oppose adding "chronic pain" and "debilitating medical conditions" which will make Texas a medical marijuana state.

THC products contain high amounts of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and have a psychoactive component. CBD products (Hemp) have low THC 0.3% and are legal for sale with no psychoactive component. Thank you.

Andrea Wimberley

Self

Katy, TX

I am in support of this bill. I have been a patient of the TCUP since it was approved; I was one of the first adults to be accepted due to my epilepsy and it has been a life-changer. I have gone from having 25-30 seizures a month, to being seizure free for a record-breaking 7 months. I believe chronic pain should be one of the qualifying conditions added to the TCUP and I am also in favor of having the Department of State Health determining who should qualify, as they are more educated in health and medicine than our legislators. I also agree with the increase in THC; some patients need more and no amount of THC is lethal. Please consider HB 1805 and think of the people that could benefit from it. Thank you!

Penny Shannon

Self

Pearland, TX

I have a terrible inflammatory arthritis called Psoriatic Arthritis. It is debilitating Can't work, had to stop 6 months after I was diagnosed, although I was told I had had it a long time already. It was evident my orthopedic told me after I had to go for steroid injections for my hips, shoulders, wrists etc. finally sent me for blood test because I came to see him too often and then got referred to a rheumatologist where I was diagnosed It has changed my life. This is not a curable disease. It's chronic for life. It is slowly destroying my joints and the pain is sometimes unbearable. Psoriatic arthritis is a connective tissue disease. So example all the muscles connected to the ligaments, tendons, muscles are inflamed and very painful. Most people with this disorder try and fail biological one after the other u til we run out of options. Life expectancy is decreased some because this auto immune disorder leads to more autoimmune disorders. I also have AS degenerative disks disease, and several other autoimmune diseases. Diagnosed in 2011, these past 12 years has been hell to say the least. Having to go to pain management and they put me on opioids, muscle relaxers, neuropathy medication etc. I support this bill because I would much rather use a natural product that he Lord put on this earth for us to use as medicine. I have to make a decision to quit one or the other. I hate being on opioids. I have recently weaned off them but the smoke here is not medical grade which works so much better. My sister in Louisiana has a medical card and tells me it so much better for the pain. Please, please consider passing this bill for the chronically ill. The quality of my life would be so much better. I'm 61 now, diagnosed at 49. I still have lots of life in me and I want to ge able to live my life as pain free as possible. If this bill passes I would be able to take less opioids but at the same time use THC as needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Jason Vaughn

self consultant

HOUSTON, TX

This bill simply puts Texas' program in line with states like Florida to assist patients.

Robert Hayhurst

Self

Canyon, TX

I oppose this bill on the basis of experience living near Oklahoma and having a student at an Oklahoma university. Oklahoma's medical marijuana industry has become a farce. Nothing in this bill would prevent the same abuses from becoming commonplace in Texas. This bill is either naive or purposeful as a step toward legalizing recreational marijuana.

Nicholas Mortillaro

Evokanna

Houston, TX

I support this measure, expanding the TCUP program and increasing THC by weight cap of 1% to 5% as seen in the bill put forward last session. These are slight, incremental changes for medical patients for a substance that has well-established medical value with strong safety and pharmaco-kinetic profiles. This is the right direction for working Texans and their families, especially our veterans and law enforcement officers, many of which suffer from conditions currently managed by opioids or alcohol.

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev
Texas Women for Justice
Conroe, TX

Please support HB 1805 which would allow doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for conditions that cause chronic pain and would otherwise be treated with an opioid. The bill would also increase the limit of THC in medical marijuana to a dry weight of 5% and set up a process that would allow the Department of State Health Services to add additional qualifying conditions. Currently, only nine conditions qualify for CUP. A January poll by The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston found that 82% of Texans support the legalization of marijuana for a wide range of medical conditions.

Jeff Cowart
Self and business owner
Houston, TX

Patients should have the right to choose natural medicines over harmful, pharmaceutical drugs.

Laura Weaver
Retired/self
Spring, TX

By supporting HB 1805, you can improve the lives of Texans who are suffering from chronic pain as well as helping to reduce the prescription of opioids. It is a sensible and measured way to expand CUP. Please support HB 1805.

Joao Mitchell
self, student
Austin, TX

Hello Public Health Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 1805, which would add chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions for the Compassionate Use Program and increase the limit of THC by dry weight to 5%. Additionally, this legislation would empower the Department of State Health Services to add qualifying conditions through an administrative process, which is a critical step in ensuring that patients have timely access to medical cannabis treatments.

Chronic pain is a debilitating condition that affects millions of Texans. Many individuals with chronic pain are unable to find relief through traditional treatments, such as opioids, which can be addictive and have serious side effects. Medical cannabis has been shown to be a safe and effective alternative for many individuals with chronic pain, and adding it to the Compassionate Use Program will provide patients with a much-needed option for relief.

Empowering the Department of State Health Services to add qualifying conditions through an administrative process is an important step in ensuring that patients have timely access to medical cannabis treatments. This process will allow the Department to review and approve new qualifying conditions on an ongoing basis, ensuring that patients have access to the most effective treatments available.

Increasing the THC limit by dry weight to 5% is also an important step in ensuring that patients have access to effective treatments. Increasing the limit would allow patients to access stronger strains of medical cannabis that may be more effective in treating their conditions.

It is important to note that medical cannabis is already legal in Texas, but the current Compassionate Use Program is limited in scope, and many patients do not qualify for it. By adding chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions and increasing the THC limit, we can ensure that more Texans have access to the medical cannabis treatments they need.

I strongly urge you to support this important legislation, which will improve the lives of thousands of Texans struggling with chronic pain and other qualifying conditions. Thank you for your consideration.

Haley Svadlenak

self

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Public Health Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1805, which would raise the THC limit for the Texas Compassionate Use Program from 1% to 5%, add chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions, and allow the Department of State Health Services to designate qualifying conditions instead of legislators deciding them every two years.

I have seen ample evidence of the benefits of medical cannabis for chronic pain patients. Chronic pain affects millions of Americans and can significantly diminish their quality of life, making it difficult for them to work, sleep, and perform everyday tasks. Studies have shown that medical cannabis can be an effective treatment for chronic pain, providing relief for patients who have not responded to traditional pain medications.

Raising the THC limit to 5% would give patients access to more effective medicine, as higher THC levels have been shown to be more effective in treating a wide range of conditions, including pain, anxiety, and nausea. This change would also bring Texas in line with other states that have already raised their THC limits, making the state more competitive in the medical cannabis industry.

Allowing the Department of State Health Services to designate qualifying conditions would ensure that the program stays up to date with the latest scientific research and medical recommendations, rather than being subject to the political whims of legislators. This would help ensure that patients have access to the most effective treatments for their conditions.

I urge you to support this bill, which would make a significant difference in the lives of many Texans who are struggling with chronic pain and other debilitating conditions. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Marcelle Rhodes

Self -- self employed

The Woodlands, TX

I support expanding compassionate medical marijuana use in Texas. As a breast cancer survivor I have witnessed women in other states who get relief and better quality of life by using cannabis, particularly during chemo treatments. I applaud the legislature for allowing medical use but my understanding is that there is still too much demand and not enough availability for these Texas patients whose quality of life could be greatly enhanced.

Lora Taylor

self Piano Instructor

Katy, TX

My name is Lora Taylor of Katy, Tx and I am providing comments on HB 1805. I am the mother of a 41 year old daughter with intractable epilepsy (Lennox Gasteaux Syndrome). My daughter Julia began receiving CBD oil though the TCUP program on September 11, 2018. In the thirty days before receiving CBD, she experienced 95 seizures. In the first thirty days of taking CBD oil she had only 2 seizures. In the years since, it is rare for her to have a seizure and when she does they are typically fifteen to thirty seconds rather than twenty minutes. Although the current level of medication that Julia receives is sufficient to control her seizures, most seizure meds do need to be increased from time to time. It would be very helpful if Neurologists could be the experts at determining the level of medication a patient needs. I would encourage you to raise the TCH level from 1 to 5% so that patients who need more can have access through their physician. Regarding the addition of chronic pain as a qualifying condition I spent the last three sessions distributing the testimony of my friend Myke Holt who suffers from Atypical Trigeminal Neuralgia. Myke suffers from severe and constant facial pain and migraine headaches. She has seen countless specialists, tried more than twenty medications and spent thousands of dollars yet is still in constant debilitating pain. I have heard many patients with chronic pain testify since 2015 and would love for these Texans to experience relief. I also support forming a board to add qualifying conditions to TCUP without seeking legislative approval each time. Thank you for changing mu daughter's life!

Byron Campbell

TexaRx

Dallas, TX

Madam Chair Klick, and members of the committee,

My name is Josh Ginsberg, and I am the CEO for TexaRx. Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony in favor of HB1805. This piece of legislation is a very important step in providing low-THC access for the citizens of Texas that are in need. I would like to thank Chairwoman Klick for her continued leadership on this issue.

As the co-founder and CEO of Native Roots, a premier nationally known medical cannabis provider, I have been committed to serving patients seeking cannabis medicine in the United States for over 14 years. Our team at TexaRx is committed to providing safe access to quality low-THC cannabis medicine to patients within the state of Texas. We are committed to designing targeted low-THC medications for Veterans, First Responders, and other high-risk constituencies suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Our entire team expresses unconditional support for expanding access to low-THC cannabis medicine to all patients who may need it, including patients suffering from a condition that causes chronic pain, for which a physician would otherwise prescribe an opioid. This is why it is so important to pass HB 1805 and allow Texans that need access to this therapy the ability to receive it. Our Medical Director, Dr. Rakesh Jetly, has shared the following insight on using low-THC medicine to treat PTSD and chronic pain.

“After spending over 30 years caring for the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, I have seen first-hand the physical and psychological injuries that occur during modern operations. Chronic pain and the nightmares and flashbacks from PTSD haunt our veterans and impact many families around the world. Sadly, many do not respond to the current evidence-based treatments. I’ve seen the promise that medical cannabis use offers. Veterans have reported a reduction in nightmares and anxiety related to PTSD. Individuals also reported a reduced requirement for opiates and other impairing medications which increase functioning.”

- Col. (Ret’d) Rakesh Jetly. MD and Former Chief of Psychiatry Canadian Armed Forces.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to supporting Chairwoman Klick, the members of this committee, and the Texas Department of Public Safety in any manner possible related to the Compassionate Use Program. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, or how we may be able to help.

Sincerely,

Josh Ginsberg
CEO

Hannah Lord

Self

Conroe, TX

For nearly the last six years, I have suffered with doctors continually telling me that I have any number of illnesses from Lupus to several autoimmune diseases. In 2017, after the hurricane that caused significant, unknown water damage in our walls, I was living with mold in my home. Which caused me to become constantly ill with bronchitis, pneumonia, upper respiratory infections, etc. It took an horrible trip to a pulmonologist who diagnosed me with asthma to prescribe me with a nebulizer to cause my entire work to come crashing down.

Having had three treatments of the nebulizer, my entire autonomic function became corrupted. I could not get out of bed for nearly a month due to my heart racing and falling any time I did successfully attempt an aided trip to the restroom with my newly wed husband. We were coincidentally married in 2017, nearly one month before the hurricane. He has watched me go from being an active woman to unable to work due to peripheral nerve damage, cognitive function issues due to frontal lobe damage, autonomic dysfunction, PTSD from mistreatment of Doctors for four years prior to my actual diagnosis and a host of other issues. My official diagnosis is Lyme, Mycotoxin Illness (mold expose) of almost 80 times the amount of each mold category including black mold, autonomic dysfunction, peripheral neuropathy and mixed connective tissue disease. I also have the added bonuses of Depression, anxiety and PTSD all caused by the mistreatment of Doctors, including a trip up to the Mayo clinic in Minnesota. Prior to my research of medicinal cannabis, my brain was telling me there was no other option but the end of life as my life is no longer worth living.

My daily routine involves high amounts of nerve pain medication and mood stabilizers which were scheduled to be increased before I consulted my primary doctor for my case in regards to medical cannabis. She enthusiastically agreed that it would be beneficial for not only my constant pain but for my PTSD to assist on controlling my anxiety that comes along with it. My hopes, is that with this medication, I can once again be in less pain again and able to regain some form of independence to be less of a burden on my husband.

There is a significant number of cases just like me who are living in chronic pain who do not have peripheral neuropathy or a qualifying condition that cannot have access to a medication that can potentially give them a life worth reliving again. Please consider these patients when you are in session today as we are all watching and hoping for the ability to be in less pain.

Lori Totten

Self

Kingwood, TX

Please get that cap like lifted and add chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions. There should not be a cap (let the doc decide the % you need) FYI...that % won't relieve chronic pain because it's too low. The cannabis people medicate with is at least 20% & would be nice if the cap was remixed altogether. I was thrown from my vehicle in 1993 and had to undergo multiple surgeries & a spine reconstruction which left me with chronic pain & a list of diagnosis & a ton of opiates, benzodiazepine, sleep medication & the list goes on...ALL ADDICTING. I began using cannabis & the oil extracted from this beautiful life saving plant. This plant does more than anything big pharm has and doesn't get you sick, addicted or cause loss of life! This is real medicine & gives you a better quality of life. I was expected to have to use a wheelchair by my early 40s and here I am almost 7 years using cannabis products and 61 years old now...I'm not using a wheelchair, Walker, cane, off BIG PHARM POISON , Alive & well. My story is rather lengthy ...over 25 surgeries from 1992 to 2008 , every opiate on the market & high doses at that, benzodiazepine, mood stabilizers, zoloft, lyrica, trazodone for sleep, adderall because I was tired all the time from chronic fatigue and the list goes on. We have an opiate crisis in n America & since the dea put a 90 mg limit on opiates people are getting street dope & dying. If you would legalize so many ripple would get off opiates & other addicting drugs because the cannabis oil (RSO) will ween you off one day at the time until you are free from trust nonsense! It's time for change ! Real change! The sci nex is right in front of everyone's faces & we still are capped & don't have a decent medical program. I think this plant should be free for ALL AMERICANS to grow & use! It's not even a get "high" thing ...some people just want to feel better & have a better quality of life...free from addiction & free of pain. Thank you for your time and consideration! Been fighting for many years & it's time to do this Texas!!

Debi Russo

Self - Former Executive Assistant for Legislative Consultant

Kyle, TX

As a chronic pain patient for 20 years, I have been offered every man made drug known to man. The only relief I have truly gotten is from the responsible use of natural cannabis. I failed to understand why Multiple Sclerosis was added to the list last Legislative Session, which is almost symptom to symptom alike with Fibromyalgia. When you are coping with multiple chronic pain illnesses, such as I and so many deal with as far as different arthritis conditions including Osteoarthritis, and Rheumatoid arthritis, there are not many medical options that give much relief over time. For me, cannabis can be a distraction and offers some mental relief along with relaxing muscles, and helping with sleep issues that coincide with these debilitating conditions.. Please, please consider adding arthritis and fibromyalgia to the list of conditions. HB 1805 addresses this, and I greatly appreciate your consideration. Respectfully, Debi Russo/512-423-3109

Shawn Meredith

Self, Administrative Assistant

Austin, TX

Madame Chair and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Shawn Meredith, representing myself and testifying in support of HB 1805.

In 1984 I suffered a spinal cord injury (SCI) in a construction accident. This led to five months of hospitalization, operations, medical complications, and rehabilitation. It also left me with a lifetime of pain.

After re-learning how to do literally everything, I went home with a heavy chrome wheelchair and a box full of pharmaceutical drugs to reduce the nerve, muscle, and joint pain associated with my injury.

Many drugs used in SCI management have serious negative side effects. I realized that my recovery was actually being hampered by using these prescribed drugs. A medical professional told me of other patients with SCI that used cannabis as an alternative and suggested that I try it. Cannabis had an almost immediate calming effect on muscle spasms and made my nerve pain more tolerable. Using cannabis allowed me to greatly reduce the use of other medications and gain control of my life.

Cannabis is a safe and effective alternative to many prescription drugs used to manage SCI. People should not face criminal penalties for choosing this natural medicine over often troublesome pharmaceuticals. Expanding the Texas Compassionate Use Program would allow me and thousands of other Texans living with SCI a viable option in pain management without running afoul of the law.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of HB 1805. Thank you.

Ashlee Deason, Mrs

Self

Lewisville, TX

Please consider legalizing cannabis as it has helped thousands with their conditions. It is time we get with today and legalize

Brandon Harrist

None

San Antonio, TX

Cannabis is helpful in dealing with the chronic back pain that I have had for the last 10 years. I have had surgery without success. I tried cannabis at the suggestion of a friend, and that has helped tremendously. I feel that medical cannabis should be legal and regulated as it is in Colorado. Those who are forced to use opioids are likely to use heroin once their prescription runs out if it is not renewed. This causes more harm to society and with legalization, it can put a dent in the black market. Not only that, it will generate tax money that can be used for things such as education and infrastructure.

IRIS COOK

Self/Walmart.com

Justin, TX

Please pass this bill.

Joshua Henault

Self, Personal Banker

Waco, TX

Medical marijuana is vital for a variety of diagnosed individuals. Among them veterans, children with epilepsy and cancer patients. Quality of life can be improved for a large portion of the Texas community. Thank you.

Brian Pawlowski

Self

Mansfield, TX

Cannabis has provided a much better life. I served in US army as a paratrooper. In 1998 I sustain a spinal injury along with other injuries. In 2006, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Started using cannabis in 2019 and life has become more important. Years of suffering from burning, sharp pain & a numerous of other symptoms was getting to the point of depression. With cannabis the muscle spasticity, cramping, aching & burning gives the most relief.

I was a victim of the opioid pandemic of the VA system. They placed me on very powerful fentanyl for years & now they turn their back on you. Our government blames the veterans that fought for having addictions that they created. Without cannabis, it would be possible that I wouldn't be reading this support letter to please understand that the cannabis plant is not the problem.

Also, I'm sure that other politicians in cannabis states will verify that cannabis doesn't create crime other then the government controlled plant that the natives of this land used for centuries to treat the sick.

In closing, cannabis creates a happiness that helps people. Alcohol is legal & the statistics show that alcohol causes more family deconstruction, more crime, more deaths all for tax money! Then tax cannabis, legalize it & that will also lower border issues in Texas.

Thank you

David Spaans

Self

Plano, TX

I urge our Texas state leaders to listen to us residents whether conservative or liberal. I am a conservative voter and do support the state of Texas allowing for complete access to medical marijuana. I have read too many testimonies of individuals stating benefits for various degrees of pain management. Please consider upping the amount of thc allowed and upping the number of conditions that can receive a prescription for marijuana. Thank you

Nona Smith

NORML

Lewisville, TX

Please help chronic pain it is a great idea

Andrea Dehghani

self

San Benito, TX

I had a doctor in AZ tell me DON'T come back until I got my medical Marijuana card! He said he can't help me until I find away to get pain and inflammation down because it affects other health. Please pass this bill to make it legal. Since moving to TX my health issues are worse again off of the Cannabis. I have Bechets, Crohns, heart disease and other health issues. I have absorbtion issues so need very high dose to have any affect at all. A doctor here said need to gain 30lbs but without it I have issues holding food down as well. Please ?? pass this. Also please don't tax this is no different then any other prescription! Recreational will cut back on illegal drugs and you should tax that and put it to use on mental health issues and education. I know many who were on opioids for pain because they couldn't get the cannibis but when it was legal they were so happy to get clean from them. Alcohol has worse side affects, but it's legal! Cannabis also has helped children with seizures, depression, those with anger issues, head trauma get under control as well. The tiny amount you have for medical will do nothing especially for people like me or cancer patients.

William Miller

Self

Bedford, TX

Not allowing THC to be medically used for chronic pain is increasing the opioid crisis. I have been on pain management for 9 years now and have been taking 3 hydrocodone a day. If I accidentally miss a dose I start feeling sick to my stomach. I want off this medication but can't due to it being the only thing that can help the pain. If medical THC was available for chronic pain I would be able to have my doctor gradually get me off the terrible opioid so I can live a better life. Please pass this bill and help many Texans get off the opioids!

Steve Hurley, Mr

Self

Lubbock, TX

I've been enrolled in the compassionate care program but it's all gummies & too expensive. Texas is hamstringing its own efforts. I'm 53 & suffer from osteoarthritis and ptsd among other things. I'm mature enough to be granted access to high potency cannabis flower. It's easier to control dosage & it's more cost effective. I can bake cookies, I can roll a joint. Why submit Texans to overbearing guidelines, the state is essentially retarding the medical cannabis program via over legislating. Other states are laughing at us. Texans are rather independent & being hobbled by a bunch of anal retentive old hand wringing legislators is not Texan, at all.

Karen Reeves

CenTex Community Outreach

Hewitt, TX

My name is Karen Reeves I support HB 1805. I have been a cannabis consumer for over 45 years. I consider myself a cannabis patient. I represent myself and CenTex Community Outreach. I am a proud advocate for people with hidden illnesses. Such as chronic pain, anxiety and depression. Cannabis helps so many people that struggle with debilitating conditions and we are patients NOT Criminals. Cannabis helps me to regulate my blood pressure, helps with nausea and helps give me an appetite when I am not feeling my best. Cannabis IS MEDICINE. House Bill 1805 can help so many more people than currently have access to the TCUP. Please pass this bill to the Senate ASAP. Too many Texans are suffering and lack safe access. We deserve the medical freedom to choose a safer alternative to harmful pharmaceuticals. Thank You!

John Burris
Self
Weatherford, TX

To many people being put in prison for nonviolent crimes the laws need to change it destroys families, needs to pass federal level as well stop wasting our taxpayers money go after the real criminals out there murdering and killing people with harmful to drugs, marijuana has life-changing's benefits. The government just needs to realize that and stop profiting off the ones that are in need good medicine for most people that suffer multiple illnesses, that marijuana helps with words, depression, anxiety, seizures, etc. etc.

David Sander
Self
Humble, TX

As long as cannabis is punished as a drug equal to opioids, many people will not be able to benefit from the research and treatment that cannabis can offer. I am a 100% rated disabled veteran and as of now due to political agendas i can not legally benefit from any advantages that may be available to me. We need to decriminalize and allow it to be used in laboratory testing for any and all health benefits that may arise. If the Federal government does not provide this, at least let the State of Texas lead the way and not sit on our Hands as Texans suffer from what could be easy and simple remedies.

Joseph Jones
Self
Brookeland, TX

I have severe depression since 1962 plus severe arthritis joint pain and recursive due to my symptoms. Please pass this bill.

Marsha Fatino
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you in the most sincere manner to raise the the content in medical cannabis. I was a marketing executive, who had to go on disability for chronic nerve pain from a spine condition. For years, I have only been offered pain pills or steroid injections. Cannabis at a 10 mg or 15-17 percent the combined with cbd helps me with the pain and I wouldn't be able to sleep without it. But sadly in texas, you only allow 1 percent per dose. Did you know that Oklahoma provides a 50 mg dose? Look at Louisiana, New Mexico, any state offers higher medical thc than texas. And it costs \$100 for basically 30 mg. That is 3 nights of sleep. Look at the enrollment and enrollment decline in texas. It's a joke. It's 5x the cost for 30x less potency. Buying delta 8 and taking 2 of those is basically the same of what should be the opposite- high potency for way less money. It's almost like a poke in the eye to people who could benefit from a real program that most other states deploy with great success. I'm very lucky I never have gotten addicted to the pain meds. I don't understand the ignorance around this subject in texas. Does anyone have a working knowledge of medical cannabis? Please please please. George Washington used it . Look at texas extremely weak and extremely expensive offerings. You would think that we could at least have a decent program like Oklahoma or Louisiana. Ask a cancer patient how much potency they need to get relief. 4x mine. I urge you to look at the list of neighbor states and the potency and pricing structure. Put yourself in the shoes of someone like me. Look at the dismal enrollment numbers. No one can afford this weak product. The nation thinks texas doesn't care about its people. I have to believe between all the guns and removal of women's rights you at least increase the percentage of thc to 10-20 mg or 17 percent thc and bring the insane price down. Two distributors for the whole state? 30 million people? What do you think would happen? No one dies from it. It's not addictive especially under a doctor's care. Lift the people up. Help the suffering!

Increase the number of medical conditions
Increase the potency
Increase the competition of distributors
Decrease the almost criminal pricing.
Add medical cards
Quit making it so hard to have access .
Thank you.

Jacob white, Pv2

Self

Arlington, TX

I fully support this bill and any pro cannabis reform. As a disabled veteran with PTSD and severe chronic back pain, marijuana has been a lifesaver both for my pain and my mental health

Alyss Noland

Self - Marketing Manager

Austin, TX

As a constituent who lives with chronic pain, I strongly support the Texas legislature bill to add chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions of the compassionate use program. Chronic pain is a condition that affects every aspect of my life and the lives of millions of Texans. It is a leading cause of disability, making it difficult for individuals to work, participate in social activities, and even perform simple tasks like grocery shopping.

Current restrictions on THC limit by dry weight in Texas make it difficult for patients like me to effectively manage our pain. The limit of 1% by dry weight is too low to provide sufficient pain relief, forcing many of us to use larger amounts of medical marijuana, which can be costly and inaccessible for many patients. This limit is also outdated compared to neighboring states such as Oklahoma, which allow patients work with their doctors on a combination that supports their needs.

By increasing the THC limit by dry weight to 5%, this bill would help patients like me manage our pain more effectively and affordably. The higher limit would also make medical marijuana more accessible to those who need it most, providing a viable alternative for patients who have exhausted other treatment options.

Empowering the Department of State Health Services to add additional qualifying conditions through an administrative process is an important provision that ensures the list of qualifying conditions remains up-to-date and responsive to the needs of patients with chronic pain. The inclusion of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome as a qualifying condition is a significant step forward in recognizing the unique medical needs of patients with chronic pain.

Passing the Texas legislature bill to add chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions of the compassionate use program, increase the THC limit by dry weight to 5%, and empower the Department of State Health Services to add additional qualifying conditions is crucial for improving the healthcare outcomes and quality of life for those of us living with chronic pain. The increased cost and outdated nature of current restrictions compared to neighboring states make it imperative that Texas takes steps to modernize its laws and provide its citizens with the care they need. Therefore, I urge my representatives to support this bill and make medical marijuana accessible to those who need it most

Sherry Molpus

Self

Longview, TX

I have fibromyalgia and the drugs prescribed have terrible side effects. So tired of this. Approve THC for people with chronic pain.

Kimberly Barclay

Self

Murchison, TX

I have chronic pain due to an MRI dated 6/14/21 that shows at the level L4-L5 of my lower lumbar, there is a broad-based disc bulge with a facet & ligamentum flavum hypertrophy. At the level of L5-S1, there is a central disc protrusion with contact of the descending S1 nerve roots. There is facet and ligamentum flavum hypertrophy. There is a mild bilateral foraminal narrowing. Since this MRI was done more than a year ago, I need another MRI, before I can get an initial consultation with a Spine Specialist, which I'm trying to get. Some days I can barely walk. I had to get a wheelchair just to get around my home. I'm disabled, and I live alone. I don't want to have to take pain medicine, because I refuse to be addicted. Cannabis does help tremendously with my pain. Please consider the fact that Cannabis is not addicting. Thank you for considering my medical condition when you are considering 5% Cannabis for medicinal use in our great state of Texas. Thank you.

Kimberly Barclay

Kathleen Sanderbeck, Mrs.

Humans

Houston, TX

All Humans have an Endocannabinoid SYSTEM and need Cannabinoids. Get to the Point. Stop the Government genocide now.

Beth Correa

Self

Salado, TX

I am a 65 year old female and have never smoked or taken marijuana in any form or fashion. Today I am submitting a request and a plea to make medical marijuana available. It is supposed to be already legal as such, however, my epileptic 40 year old son cannot get a prescription because we cannot locate a doctor who is certified to write a prescription for it. The Compassionate Use Program website lists doctors who will prescribe, but all those that we called from that list say they either didn't know they were listed and do not prescribe it - or they say that they are not allowed to do so. Why? My son has grand mal seizures. In December he had 4 back to back and I called EMS. He was intubated for 3 days so that his brain could rest. He survived and fortunately he has had no apparent brain damage from the continuous seizing. Next time, he may not be so lucky.

Marijuana has had a bad rap, and we all know that it is not even as harmful as alcohol, yet it is a political football. The very least that we need is to make it medically accessible by prescription or registration. It should NOT be a schedule 1 drug. Release it from politics, please!

Thank you for hearing my voice.

chris morrison, Mr.

Self restaurant manger

East Tawakoni, TX

Please consider voting yes on this bill. I have my medical license in Texas and we need a better medical marijuana program that it can provide the proper quantities of cannabis for medicinal properties. Which are slowly coming to light what this naturally growing plant better so many live. Mine and my wife's included. So I ask you to consider choosing to help so many more lives. Ty for your time.

chris morrison, Mr.

Myself

East Tawakoni, TX

I am no angel and have been in trouble multiple times marijuana being one of them. I did my time and no longer do hard drugs at will ever go back. I have been diagnosed with ptsd and severe anxiety disorder do to my unfortunate childhood. I don't do anything except canna us and my anxiety meds which I'm able to take less with the help of medicinal cannabis. So please take consideration and vote to improve our medical cannabis laws. Ty for your time.

Brandy Stender
Brandy Stender
Houston, TX

Please add CHRONIC PAIN to the list of covered medical conditions. I've had 2 neck surgeries. I have 4 fused vertebrae in my neck. 1 plate holding 2 vertebrae in place and a metal cage built inside of my spinal column holding all of them together. This has cause significant and chronic pain, inflammation and migraines over the last 9 years. Cannabis is the only thing that relieves this pain without heavy duty pain pills.

Megan Mumbach
self, CFO
Orange, TX

I support medical access to THC cannabis for chronic pain as well as many other ailments.

Alexander Worley
Self - Law Student at Harvard Law School
Houston, TX

Please extend the medical use of cannabis to all who will need it. There are many uses of the plant, as demonstrated by research in other states, and many, especially veterans with PTSD, rely on cannabis for pain relief, appetite stimulation, mood lifting, and as a treatment for very difficult conditions for which other drugs would cause more harm than cannabis. This is an important bill, and it should be approached seriously.

Dodie Sweeney
individual
Alpine, TX

I support HB 1805 adding chronic pain to the list of qualifying conditions, for the use of medical cannabis. I also support increasing the limit of THC by dry weight to 5%, and empowering the Department of State Health Services to be able to add additional qualifying conditions through an administrative process.

Aniece Newsom
Self
Hubbard, TX

Please expand the medical cannabis program to help many Texas citizens that are suffering from life debilitating conditions. Many cannot tolerate conventional medication but can achieve relief from cannabis. Thank you.

Aniece Newsom
Self
Hubbard, TX

Please add more quaiying conditions to the medical cannabis approval compassionate use program. Many conditions not considered approved can be mitigated by cannabis without the harmful side effects of conventional medication. Thank you

Samuel Stevens, Dr.

Self/physician treating chronic pain

San Antonio, TX

I Strongly recommend chronic pain patients have access to legal THC. I am a chronic pain physician. Treating patients with chronic pain is extremely challenging. Medications all have side effects and potential drawbacks. THC in my opinion has value for multiple chronic pain conditions, and compared to many available medications, has less risk. Granting chronic pain patients access to legal THC is a step in the right direction for appropriate treatment of this patient population. Let's say you can get 5% of opioid users off opioids for their chronic pain. Even this seemingly tiny change would result in a huge benefit in public health and these patients' quality of life. Furthermore, creating a safe access point for patients who are already using THC for chronic pain will result in less illicit activity—illicit activity which leads to a host of serious problems (unsafe supply, funding of trafficking organizations, development of alternate chemical compounds with no safety profile). I strongly support this effort to help chronic pain patients. From my perspective it is absolutely the right way to go. Thank you.

Eric Beich

self - unemployed

Grand Prairie, TX

Quick background, I'm 54, bipolar/manic depressive, ADHD, PTSD, anger issues, borderline social anxiety disorder, a bone fused in my left foot and I have screws in it and it starts to swell up and get sore if I walk too much, and I have chronic lower back pain from an accident 15 years ago, and just had a large section of my colon removed from extreme diverticulitis. Last summer was the first year after both my parents died that I was able to retreat to a friend's cabin outside Taos, NM for a month to mentally regroup. The medications the psychiatrists and medical doctors were prescribing were not doing the trick again. The dispensaries in New Mexico had just opened so I was able to try a few things out and found a low dose edible did wonders for me both physically and mentally. Then I had to come home to Texas and go back to trying to upset my stomach with enough Advil to make a dent in the back pain, and rely on prescription medications prescribed by third year medical students that include a bevy of side effects. The side effects of the legal THC I had access to in New Mexico? I was calm and happy and able to hike leisurely without near as much back pain, and enjoy nature and recharge mentally. Obviously there is a difference in a low dose THC and higher and some people need a much higher dosage, like many medications. I did try some pre-rolled THC as well but found for me the edibles really did the trick of a nice balance of effectiveness and dosage control. Texas needs to not be the last state in the union to legalize THC in some form. The examples other states have set have provided a blueprint for Texas to follow and reap the rewards of an added tax base and much less harmful forms of medication and happier people. Hopefully recreational usage legalized next.

Jacob Perez

self

San Antonio, TX

Cannabis is the much safer alternative to Alcohol.

Mary Jane Gray

Myself

Corpus Christi, TX

I have had chronic arthritis pain for the last 7 yrs of my life and when I travel to Vegas and am able to purchase some medicinal THC, it helps my pain tremendously. I have since lost weight and eat so much more healthier now, but nothing helps the pain like some natural THC.

JANNEL GONZALES, GIS Analyst

Self, GIS ANALYST

HOUSTON, TX

Please pass this bill. I am a traumatic brain injury survivor and would have never made it as far as I have without cannabis. This injury changed my physical abilities (on the right side of body and my overall coordination) and pace of learning (memory, speech to language). This state however has not allowed or offered the medicinal options I needed. US PATENT #6630507 explicitly explains the neuroprotective benefits and medicinal purposes cannabis has on brain damage. AND IT WAS ISSUED TO WHO?? WHEN?? THE US DEPT. OF HEALTH IN 2006!!!!!!! I have suffered a great deal of emotional damage and life long repercussions resulting from buying cannabis from drug dealers. NO BODY should have to live life as a criminal, surround themselves with criminals or even associate with them to get a medicine. CANNABIS helped my brain heal. I saw physical improvements after using cannabis, that I did not make without it. I was able to get school work finished and not fall into hours of depressive thoughts if I used cannabis. Please consider the many cases where cannabis is a beneficial method of treatment. Please allow adults to make their own decision about how to treat themselves and the medical, mental, physical issues they suffer with. -

Jannel Gonzales-

Texas A&M graduate, class of 2014

GIS Analyst at the greater Harris county 911 emergency network

Christopher Grisolia

Self / Treasurer & Board Member Texas Cannabis Collective 501(c)(4)

Krum, TX

I fully support HB 1805

Dr William O'Shaughnessy was successfully treating epilepsy among many other conditions in the USA in the 1850s. 173 years ago, they knew cannabis was medicine! 120 years before cannabis was deemed to have zero medicinal benefits by people without any medical training, they knew! 120 years before my son died from the Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy when current medications did nothing to help him, we knew!

While this bill does very little in expansion of the program to where we should be by now on this subject, I support it's passage and enactment so at least a select few others will not have to endure what I do each and every day when I wake up, which is to simply ask why?

Please pass HB 1805 out of committee and on to the House floor.

Kevin Hughes

Self

The Colony, TX

Hopes that Medical Marijauna will be legalized in my lifetime due to degenerative disc's in lower back causing constant pain. Doen't make sense to me that Recreational is legal in so many states.

Sinya Muthurajah

Self

Houston, TX

Hello my name is Sinya Muthurajah, I was born at 23 weeks gestation in Brighton England, and the medicine I was given to save my life would cause kidney stones. I moved to the USA in 2001 when I was 6 years old. I also had Autism Spectrum Disorder band was on large amounts of autism medication. I had kidney pains start one day at school. I would spend from the ages of 7 to 14 have 9 lithotripsy's, and two open surgeries to remove the stone. After these operations I was on high amounts of morphine.

After all this cleared up in the 10th grade I began suffering from severe pains in my legs. Burning, sweats, cold spells, constant pain, like fire. This went on for years. I was finally referred to a specialist who performed tests and found that I had a condition called Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. I received the diagnosis back in 2018. I became a US citizen that year too in the great state of Texas.

I was prescribed for the CRPS Gabapentin, Tramadol, Trazodone, and Valium for my condition. I became heavily addicted to these medications legally prescribed opioids. In 2019 I started using cannabis. Heavy medical strains such as Wedding Cake and Gelato Cake, Train-wreck and Jack Herer. All strains recommended for CRPS. The lighter strains do not effect me at all due to the high level of pain medication I received when I was younger

Using the cannabis I took myself off all my addictive opioids and have been drug and alcohol free since 2020. I use medical cannabis every day. I had gained so much weight due to the Autism medication I was on and I use cannabis in place of that too. I have not swallowed a pill in 3 years and feel so good. My height is 5'6 and my weight used to be 200 pounds. I have been able to take kickboxing since I started using cannabis the cannabis gives me my muscle spasticity back. I now weigh 135 pounds.

Now CBD works great as a pain killer by increasing blood flow and circulation and is a fantastic anticoagulant.

THC specifically goes to the Endo Cannabinoid system which we all have in our human bodies. THC balances out the entire bodies system by readjusting the levels of endorphins and equalizing all systems in the body.

I would respectfully ask that we increase if not eliminate the THC cap all together as the use of Carrier (Vegetable Oil,) Gelatin powder and sugar used in substitution of the THC capped by weight by 1%.

While 5% will still not be substantial enough for me I understand that baby steps are necessary. I respect that the level of Anti Cannabis propaganda over the years including (WAR ON DRUGS. MOVIE REFEER MADNESS) have not helped shape positive opinions. But times change. I believe that due the failed response of the Covid 19 Vaccine that medical body sovereignty is more important than ever. We must allow Dr and Patients to decide what's right for themselves. Please remind the federal government not to decide what our body sovereignty rights are. Thank you so much,

Sinya Muthurajah

Willie Sublet Jr

my self

Dallas, TX

I was in a car accident in 1999. Because of that accident I had to have spine and neck surgery. I am in pain every day. I was taking medication my Doctor requested and it was destroying my liver and had other side effects that were not healthy. THC cannabis, I believe would give me pain relief with no side effects. I've tried CBD in every foam, it has not helped me. THC with .32 and above has helped me. But I don't want to break the law, but I do want relief. Please pass a bill that would help me and others, including children with artism. I want to not hurt every day. Please help people like me.

Stephen Keenan

Self/

Houston, TX

I'm a T12 burst fracture w/T.B. I. Confined to a wheelchair. Organic cannabis has saved my life. The T.c.u.p. Program is a slap in the face to patient who want an organic choice to heal . I need more THC and I won't my allotted space to grow my own medicine that heals me doesn't kill me and use every bit of this healing herb without worrying if the copper's are going to kick in my door for growing my medicine that heals me allowing me to be functional an happy. If I can't get more THC in many different forms herb,dabs, edibles,lotions, topical then I will continue being a criminal for my medicine .

Michelle Haydel

Self disabled

Forney, TX

I have Psoriatic Arthritis and Degenerative Disc disease. I have arthritis and severe pain in my back, hips and knees. In addition to the inflammation and arthritis in my spine, I have 5 herniated discs in my low back. They have attempted to fix spine surgically, but failed both times. I have been in pain management since approx 2006. I have been on opiates to help with the pain since approx 2008. While I haven't had any issues with opiate abuse, I would get significantly more pain relief with the cannabis. It helps with inflammation and pain. The opiates do nothing but mask the pain and the body builds up a tolerance so quickly that they stop doing much to help. Cannabis is a much better and needed solution.

Tony Howard

Self

Lucas, TX

I support the passing of this bill and encourage any and all legislation that provides greater access to medical cannabis for adult Texans.

Patricia W Witter

Patricia Witter Photography

Austin, TX

Please support this bill. Our community needs this as a tool to treat illnesses that would otherwise be treated with stronger, more addictive drugs.

Thank you

Patricia W Witter

John Zamora, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

Please support this bill!! The increase is needed by so many Texans with chronic pain and debilitating conditions. This will act as a bridge to help the sky rocketing prescription drug epidemic we're facing!

Celestino Silva

My family and i

Weslaco, TX

I have a disease that causes over growth of polyps that lead to colon cancer and as preventative care my kids and I had out large intestine removed and we get checked really for these polyps. We deal with pain, anxiety and nausea on a daily basis. I don't expect anyone to understand unless you know us well Or know someone that has our disease. We smoked THC to help us for example my daughters tumor has shrunk since she started taking THC/cbd products. Please please for the love of God and your productive citizens please legalize this for us.

Bryan Saufferer, Mr

Self/Texas Original Compassionate Cultivation

Austin, TX

This law does not make any sense. The CUP has helped so many people! Everybody's bodies are different and some experience much more intense symptoms or have a higher tolerance than others and this law makes it difficult for them to take the current medicine that is available because they have to take more of the carrier agent which could upset their GI system. This would help a lot more people who don't get involved in the program because it is not as cost effective if they have a higher dose recommended by the Dr

Peter Proctor, MD, PhD

self Clinical Pharmacologist and Toxicologist

Houston, TX

As a board-certified Medical Toxicologist drug expert, I urge you to legalize the use of low-THC cannabis for medical conditions. It is particularly useful as a low hazard substitute for opiates in pain control.

Peter H Proctor, MD, PhD ABMT, ABT, AACT

Daniel Patton, Mr.

Self

Howe, TX

Medical marijuana has many practical uses and has helped many Americans ease their pain and conditions. I fully support this bill.

Stormy Estes

Self, Registered nurse

Venus, TX

I support the expanded use of THC cannabis for chronic pain.

Marcella Tincher

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I pray that you add chronic pain to the list of covered conditions within the YCUP program. Thank you for your time.

Ron Lumsdon

Self

Seagoville, TX

Gentlemen

I am 63 yrs old. I take opioids now for all the extra metal parts I have in my leg, back, shoulder and the arthritis in my joints. I have been on these pills for the past 11 years now.

I know this, I take my pain pills like they are prescribed to me and they do exactly what they are designed to do, help me to tolerate the chronic pain I have. I am drug dependent.

I know for certain that when I smoke cannabis it helps me tremendously. The Great state of Texas needs to at a minimum expand the current companionate care system to include chronic pain.

Thank you for time.

Sherri Foster, Mrs

Self

Lubbock, TX

I support increased levels of THC for the use of medical marijuana and I support medical use of marijuana in general.

Steven Stover

Self

Denton, TX

Hello,

Please allow HB 1805 to pass. There are plenty of people in the state that could benefit from this that actually need help.

Blair Henderson
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Dear Honorable Members of the Texas Legislature,

My name is Blair Henderson and I am a resident of Sugar Land, Texas. I am writing to express my support for the proposed bill, "HB 1805," relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis by patients with certain medical conditions.

As a current medical marijuana patient and member of the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP), I strongly support HB 1805. This bill would expand access to low-THC cannabis for Texans suffering from debilitating medical conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and chronic pain.

As someone who experiences the devastating effects of chronic pain and other muscle spasticity, I strongly believe that patients should have access to all available treatments that could alleviate their suffering. This includes low-THC cannabis, which has been shown to be effective in treating conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and chronic pain.

The proposed bill would allow physicians in Texas to prescribe low-THC cannabis to patients who meet certain criteria, including being a permanent resident of the state and having a qualifying medical condition. I believe that this is a compassionate and responsible approach that could greatly improve the lives of many Texans who are currently struggling with debilitating medical conditions.

I also appreciate that the bill includes measures to ensure that the use of low-THC cannabis is safe and regulated. Physicians would be required to comply with registration requirements and certify that the risk of medical use of low-THC cannabis by the patient is reasonable in light of the potential benefit.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this important bill and to help provide relief to those who are suffering from medical conditions that can be treated with low-THC cannabis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Blair Henderson

Phillip Bell, Mr.
Self-Retired
Carrollton, TX

Rep. Klick, please boot-kick your fellow Representative's and make this HB through! Good luck & thank you for your Service

Melanie Adams, Patient
Self, Disabled, Unemployed
Fort Worth, TX

With all due respect,

This bill maintains status quo and does nothing to contend with the issues of chronic pain to which the bill requests. The foremost issues of chronic pain rests within opioids, addictions, our nation's crisis, and most importantly, tolerance built by those whose lives are permanently impacted by chronic pain.

For this reason alone, 1-5% THC is INSUFFICIENT for Texans. THC is THE primary pain relieving cannabinoid. Denying pain patients THC is denying them pain meds.

Physicians in Texas must be provided the ability to prescribe what will help their patients. For many chronic pain patients, it's not uncommon for them to ingest extremely high doses of prescription medications, many of which can be deadly. THC isn't. It's that simple.

The bill does not open the opportunity for patients to have local access to necessary and life affirming cannabis medicine. The bill does not protect the impoverished population who cannot afford the prohibitive costs of the TCAP program or its monopolized cannabinoid sales. Patients with incurable conditions with chronic pain must NOT BE CRIMINALIZED in Texas.

TCAP only offers THC:CBD extracts. It does not yet allow for full spectrum cannabinoid use, and until it does, Texas is keeping a bandaid on an elephants behind where patient needs and desperation meet.

For TCAP to be compassionate whatsoever, it must legally protect patients from legal recourse. Whether registered in TCAP or not, a physicians written recommendation should be all any Texan requires to prevent being criminalized.

Criminalizing the impoverished, chronically ill pain patient is cruel and unusual. The impoverished cannot afford the current program. We must protect all Texans from the tyranny of medical imprisonment due to need, and most importantly demand.

Baby boomers are utilizing whole plant medicine and concentrates all across our great Nation to ease the aging process. And people are free.

In Texas we haven't even been able to obtain a legitimate medical program.

MEDICAL DISCRIMINATION is also when pain patients are denied effective pain meds. Only a physician can determine their patient's medical needs And only the Great Physician can provide for our natural needs, and has in part, with plants.

The world's cannabis policies and programs outpace Texas by a long shot. Damn shame.

Texans deserve impactful and effective laws that do not discriminate upon the disabled chronic pain patient. All require access to use of cannabis.

Signed, an incurable, degenerative chronic disease warrior of 23yrs and daughter of a retired Ph.D. Professor of Nursing, TCU; an advocate for integrative medicine and cannabis education and a Master Cannabis Certification holder, including Medical Cannabis Certification.

Most importantly, signed, a Native Texan born and raised in Fort Worth and fed up with discriminatory laws that cause harm to patients and the dying.

Melanie Adams

David Pack
Self
Kingwood, TX

Please support this bill it's a much better option than many of the pharmaceuticals and their side effects.

Rosie Shaddy
Self Unemployed
Joshua, TX

allow low-THC medical cannabis preparations in cases where “an opioid is currently or could be prescribed by a physician based on generally accepted standards of care.

Jerry Perry
self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. As an Army veteran I know many other veterans and non-veterans who would benefit from this change.

Sylvia Campbell
self, retired
The Woodlands, TX

To the House Public Health Committee,
I am writing to urge you to support HB 1805. So many people suffer from medical conditions that could be treated with medical marijuana. This is just the compassionate thing to do. If this bill passes, it could alleviate a lot of needless suffering.
Thank you,
Sylvia Campbell

Philip Broughton
Self
Dallas, TX

Medical Cannabis usage is legal in many states, such as Oklahoma. They get along just fine. I also support the parts of the bill that decriminalize possession. Issuing a fine is a better way to discourage recreational usage than arrests and jail time.

I am someone who personally hates even being around Cannabis, but I do agree that the current punishments for possession are too much.

Charles Carder
retiree
Victoria, TX

I'm a retired Chemical Plant worker with several health problems. I'm currently disabled with a placard for the handicap. Some of my problems include nerve damage due to cervical stenosis, and long term Gout damage that's effected most of my joints. I've had over ten surgeries for these two problems and have had chronic pain daily since 2016.

With that said, I would appreciate if you would expand the medical marijuana legislation to include chronic pain, and increase THC to 5%, especially if one is taking opioid's or similar drugs to live. Personally, I know it would benefit me and add to my quality of life. I would much rather smoke marijuana to control pain versus taking pain med's.

Sincerely, Charles Carder

charles carder

retired

Victoria, TX

I have a few more thoughts to add to my previous letter. 1. People have really screwed up recreational weed by making it too strong (>20% THC) and furthermore it stinks. Marijuana in my day smelled wonderful and gave the user a pleasant high, elevated one's mood, and made them creative. 2. The Compassionate Care Program is a misnomer--in that theirs nothing compassionate about giving someone trash weed (1% THC) that does nothing to relieve pain and elevate one's mood. 3. Anyone that knows anything about marijuana strength knows it has to be between 5-8% THC for it to elevate ones mood, and that's exactly what someone with chronic pain needs. This is why the current enrollment is only around 40k--It's plainly not worth the effort. Finally, if the program is changed to 5% THC with Chronic pain added, I'd bet that 500k to 1 million sick people would take advantage of it. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely, Charles Carder

Dwayne Virnau

Self

Sealy, TX

I support the medical use of marijuana as does the majority of Texans.

Dolores Mitchell

self

Spring, TX

Medicinal use of Marijuana to assist in pain management and other medical care in lstead of options will benefit thousands of people from ailments without the terror of addiction and death from opioid use. also will allievate the pain and suffering without causing death.

Ethan Elliott

self

TEMPLE, TX

I support this bill. Texas should allow marijuana use and decriminalize it. Even recreationally. This is another good step towards that.

Jennifer Conner

self

The Woodlands, TX

I encourage the committee to support HB 1805. This bill would allow doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for conditions that cause chronic pain and would otherwise be treated with an opioid. Thus lessening the need for opioid use in our country. A January poll by The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston found that 82% of Texans support the legalization of marijuana for a wide range of medical treatments. This bill would allow doctors to help patients using other methods that aren't nearly as addictive as opioids. Please consider this bill and move it to the house floor.

Margaret Roscoe

Self

Conroe, TX

I support the use of medical marijuana and low THC cannabis by patients with certain medical conditions. I would hope in the future that it would be made more available to those requiring pain relief.

Marc Nagley
self retired
Waxahachie, TX

your support is needed on this bill.