

Hi,

I just want to show my support and encourage law makers to please keep voting legalization of cannabis through these committees.

I am a wife of a veteran of the USAF who gave 22 plus years of service for this country. He is one of the lucky one's and was never part of a war situation except Desert Shield in which he was in England working on B52's. But we know many, including a son in law, who have seen active duty in Afghanistan and other areas. Our son in law was injured and to this day still fights with issues including PTSD and severe back issues. He has previously been on a cocktail of opiates and replaced these with cannabis. Unfortunately, he has to go to the illicit market to get his cannabis. The use of cannabis has been his saving grace. He has been able to get good jobs and relieve most of his pain and PTSD symptoms but there again, he has to do this illegally. He has to go before criminals in order to get his medicine. How can this be that we expect these men and women to fight for us but, we are not fighting for them? They can walk into danger every single day for US...but we can't make a simple plant that's been around for thousands of years, legal in our state because of the fear/ignorance of a few legislators. These legislators who have never served in a war time event. These legislators who have never put their lives on the line for the freedoms we are afforded can tell us...nope i don't feel like we can do this because my personal values say no. Reefer madness isn't true. Last thing i have heard about Cannabis being overdosed is never. This is not going to be a perfect system until we just do it and work out the kinks but we know prohibition doesn't work. Legalizing helps our veterans, it helps our kids by cutting out illicit sales and keeping kids away from criminals and it helps our very state by reaping the revenues that are currently going out of state or keeping criminal activity alive in the state of MN. Every time you say no to making cannabis legal, your funding the criminals in our state. The worry's about driving while intoxicated, while valid' is still illegal. And the worries about the increased use because of legalization is valid but will even out. Right now in MN literally thousands (easily 1/2 of the state) uses and wants cannabis legalized. Right now people are using and driving and working and functioning with cannabis. Not just a few but many. And they are getting dirty, unknown strains, not regulated cannabis from criminals and I am having a hard time understand why you are OK with this very idea.

So please put away your own personal biases. Lets get this started. You all are being offered the best plan in all the states. Within the next year, ND will be legal, and WI could be legal. Our own Capital in Washington DC is legal. Virginia is newly legal, NJ is legal, Maine and Massachusetts is legal along with most of the west coast/Canada and soon Mexico. And so far we are scared. We are falling behind because we use the excuse of fear. Stop. Please stand by the MAJORITY, be hero's instead of villains and make this happen for this state. Oh and btw....its ok (in case you don't know) to be pro-cannabis and be a non user. I believe alcohol is being regulated and fairly taxed keeping people away from criminal activity and leaving kids only able to raid their parents liquor cabinet in order to get it. And its a dangerous drug that kills someone every moment of the day in one way or another. I am a NON user. Have seen grandparents, and uncles, and my own siblings, an ex-husband die at the hands of alcohol. I have seen alcohol related deaths and death by poisoning and cancer. But I still support the rights given to an adult to choose to drink alcohol even though i do not. Even though i can read and see on the news everyday how alcohol is decimating our country. Yet cannabis has never killed a soul. I find this backwards thinking wrong...but as an adult i would at least like the choice.

Again, please think about the harms your personal biases could be to your constituents by ignoring the obvious. Do the right thing. Give me and others the legal right to choose to use this healing plant. BTW..I am on the medical cannabis LESS program for childhood trauma and PTSD. Get busy

adding flower. I can't afford the cost and use of this medicine much longer. I am going to be a statistic to this program by leaving it soon.

Thanks for lending me your ear.

Laurie Richard