

Carl Young
Family Services Network Inc.
Executive Director
Lobbyist Badge Number 136
Bismarck, ND 58504
7012143152
carl@ndctn.org

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Representative Weisz,

Members of the Committee.

My name is Carl Young, I am a patient of the medical marijuana program. I am neutral on this piece of legislation.

What I can say is, we need competition. We need competition in grow operations as well as in dispensary operations. This will help make the price manageable.

As a medical patient, I can tell you that it is more expensive for me to use medical marijuana than it is to use hydrocodone or gabapentin, or any of the other medications I am taking for PTSD or Severe Anxiety.

Did you know that in North Dakota, you can brew up to 200 gallons of beer and wine a year for personal use?

But, I can't legally grow a plant called cannabis in my own home.

I'd like to see more growers in the state, as well as an increase in dispensaries.

I'd like to see the state be able to take legislators thru a dispensary so you can get a firsthand look at the menu, and not need to depend on someone from the Department of Health to give you the facts.

The system we are currently operating under is basically a cartel system. Prices are controlled. Product quality is controlled. What we get is not the best in quality. Some of it is dyed. Some of it appears moldy, some of it smells moldy. We have seen spider webs. All of this is in sealed packages that we cannot inspect before we leave the store. By law the dispensary is supposed to accept the product if it is returned, and they are not.

I'd like to be able to inspect the product that I purchase before I leave the store. There are flaws in the current system. They need to be addressed.

I'd like to be able to say the Department is being honest and forthright with you.