

I am Gail Pederson, Special Practice RN, Cannabis nurse educator and consultant. I reside in Valley City, District 24.

Even though HB 1420 is dismal for consumer safety, I will have to speak for it. It is time to end prohibition and the stigma that surrounds this plant. The only thing I see for product safety is the self reporting of pesticides. The American Nurses Association, The American Cannabis Nurses Association, Patients out of Time, Patients for Safe Access and Doctors for Cannabis Regulation all call for a safe consumer product. This includes testing for mycotoxins, bacteria and heavy metals along with pesticides. This needs to be the same as the medical program, which is minimal already. That is testing for THC/CBD components. Heavy metals, mycotoxins and bacteria must be included. Standards must not be less for an adult use product.

The limits are unnecessarily low. The worry of “selling on the illicit market” is a moot point if it is legal and it is done right. But, that market will continue under this law as written. The half month allotment is unreasonable for those who need to travel. The limits of 1.5 ounces in HB 1420 is not adequate and will again continue to drive the illicit market. Even with the increased number of dispensaries, people will continue to have to travel to purchase. There are many medical patients who are waiting for legalization because they are unable to find a provider or have to drive hundreds of miles to see one. For some, their provider will not certify because of the expense of the product. The Medical Cannabis program is failing its patients in many ways. I would hope the price would drop with legalization. It hasn't with the number of patients we have in the program now. Many patients are priced out of participating and the compassionate care aspect of the program is not there.

This bill continues to criminalize the person using a legal product. Let's be above board and make 1420 a better bill by adding quality controlled lab results and a more reasonable dispensing guideline for the adult user.

Thank you for your attention to these overlooked items. I stand for questions.