

Chairwoman Lee; Senate Human Services Committee members;

My name is Chris Nolden.

I am a resident of Bismarck ND, District 7.

I am also a cardholder in the NDMMJP.

Even though I did have no intention of providing testimony; after listening to many of the testimonies provided, I felt very compelled to stand up and speak.

One of the reasons I felt compelled to speak, was to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Senator Weber, Senator Poolman, and Representative Pyle. I do believe the reasons this bill was brought forward, are very valid. I give them a lot of respect for sponsoring it.

Access to cannabis flower, is not only access to the most natural, unadulterated version of the medicine; it is also a "quality" check. Every cannabis product is made from cannabis leaves and flowers. Quality matters.

I also wanted to mention, that even though I hadn't fully reviewed Ms. Pederson's proposed amendment, that I do agree, the 6% THC cap on pediatric medicine is arbitrary, a detriment to pediatric patients, as well as the program, and should be removed.

Another reason I felt compelled to rise was; it seems to me at least, that you are often given misleading or non-factual information. These issues and problems are not new; they are not a few weeks, or even a couple months old.

I attended and testified, at the first annual program update the NDMMJP ever had, it was given at an interim Human Services meeting; with representatives from each chambers Human Services committees.

I brought up several concerns and issues on that day, one of the concerns I brought up was this very issue, pediatric medicine quality, and availability.

Until very recently, as far as I know, there has been little to no action taken.

This meeting was held November 7, 2019.

This picture was provided in another testimony, and the final reason for which I felt the need to speak.

I am on the far left, same suit, different tie and shoes with which I appeared in front of you on 2/9/2021, at the hearing for SB2284.

When I look at this picture, I feel the same shame, disappointment, distrust, and despair others mentioned in their testimonies.

I would like to sincerely thank you all, for allowing me to offer my spoken testimony.

I did my best to capture the reason why I was compelled to speak.

Even though there was no questions for me, I am open to trying to answer any questions you may have.

