

Dear Senator Judy Lee,

I am writing to urge you to give a DO NOT PASS recommendation to SB 2284 regarding allowing the home mixture of dried leave forms of cannabis for the treatment of pediatric and adolescent conditions including autism. I am a family physician with more than 30 years in practice, and now have the pleasure of serving in the capacity of Vice President, Medical Officer of Sanford Health in Fargo. This has given me a very close perspective to understanding the challenges that patients and families face in caring for these challenging conditions. It is very emotionally and physically taxing and parents will do almost anything to help their children. This is understandable yet we should not let this lead to unsafe and unproven therapies. Furthermore, my current role gives me a window into the situation with behavioral health hospitals, medical floors, and jails filled with increasingly more patients with serious mental health issues such as schizophrenia, which use of cannabis has been shown to increase the risk for. I offer the following arguments.

1. Medical cannabis has very little research to support its use in autism
2. Exposing young lungs to inhaled cannabis is very dangerous
3. It is very complex to mix dried leaves to a certain concentration, and to expect parents to do this safely and potentially exposing patients (children) to the risk of dangerous toxicity is a poor idea
4. Reported adverse events include irritability, decreased appetite, and restlessness
5. Finally, the increased risk for developing very serious psychiatric issues in the future exists with any use of cannabis.

Thanks you for your consideration. I would be happy to talk further about this if that would be helpful.

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