

Senator Lee,

Sorry for the late reply. I wanted to follow up on the bill regarding pediatric use of medical marijuana for children on the spectrum.

I appreciate the concerns, especially regarding the uncertainty of long term effects. However, many of the children I work with are taking powerful psychotropic medications that we don't know what the long term effects are either. Many children are prescribed these medications "off label" meaning that they are not FDA approved for children. The atypical antipsychotics that are frequently prescribed for children with behavioral issues, even the one that is FDA approved for children, can have significant side effects. I've seen children develop tardive dyskinesia, diabetes, have liver and kidney damage, experience cognitive delays, etc. from prescribed medications. The issues with prescription medications are rarely discussed.

Many parents are using CBD products for their children. They report great effectiveness.

I believe that we have to be open to all possible treatments that can help children. I fully believe in providing options to parents who are educated by their prescribers so that they can make an informed choice. As with any medication, follow up is critical.

I work with several adults on the spectrum who are prescribed medical marijuana with great success. They are able to function more successfully without the side effects of the psychotropic medications. (Sandy Smith was correct in her testimony about the significant costs that limit some people from accessing this valuable treatment option.)

I found this article that you may find interesting.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7000154/>

Again, I can't recommend or promote the use of any medications or over the counter products. But, I did want to share my thoughts and experiences.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

(And I like the new version of SB 2089.) Thank you!

Barb

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