



I wish to thank members of the House Human Services Committee for holding a hearing on this important matter and for considering my testimony.

My name is Carly Wolf and I am the State Policies Coordinator with The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) – a Washington, DC based advocacy organization that opines in favor of evidence-based marijuana policy reforms.

I am providing testimony in favor of the advancement of Senate Bill 2234, which provides registered medical cannabis patients the legal option to cultivate limited quantities of cannabis in the privacy of their home.

The inclusion of legislative provisions permitting the non-commercial personal cultivation of cannabis serves as leverage to assure that the product available at retail outlets is high quality, safe, and affordable. Further, many patients prefer specific strains of the cannabis plant. Permitting patients the option to produce these specific strains at home assures that they will have an uninterrupted and cost-effective supply of medical cannabis that is best suited to their own medical needs. It would also prevent those who do not live within a reasonable distance of a retail outlet, or those who may not be able to afford cannabis available at retail outlets, from purchasing from the illicit market.

Patients are legally permitted to cultivate personal use quantities of medical cannabis in about half of the jurisdictions that regulate its use and distribution. In many instances, these rules have now been in place for two decades or more. In almost all cases, these provisions have led to few incidences of abuse or diversion. In fact, no state permitting patients to home-cultivate cannabis has ever repealed this provision.

For these reasons, I urge members of the Committee to support SB 2234, the right of adults to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.