

Thank you chairman Lee, vice chair Weston for allowing me to speak in support of SB 2294

I am Gail Pederson, Special Practice RN in Holistic Nursing, Board Certified Holistic Nurse and a member of the American Cannabis Nurses Assn. I currently sit on their Government Policy and Advocacy Committee. Did you know that cannabis Nursing is now an recognized Specialty within the American Nurses Association?

I applaud the changes that are made with this bill, but it continues to place barriers on our patients. These include cost of our products which are among the most expensive in the country.

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 19-24.1-01 of the North Dakota

Line 23 a. The relationship is not for the sole purpose of providing written certification for the medical use of marijuana.

It is really time for this to be removed. This is what has been created with patients whose own usual provider are unable to certify for whatever reason, among them lack of knowledge. Patients, many times know more than their providers do about basic cannabis therapeutics. This has created the rise of independent clinics. Thank God for our Nurse Practitioners who have stepped up to provide care.

SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 19-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Qualifying patients - Seniors

My long time friend who is caring for her mother with dementia wanted to acquire a cannabis card for her mom. She is very leary about the black box medications that are usually prescribed with increased behaviors. She is not allowed a card right now.....her mom hasn't had an official ID for at least five years. Their provider says Yes, but our department says no! This is a severe injustice in our law and it has caused her to follow the illicit market with out of state products.

I would like to see changes in facility restrictions, this in anticipation that cannabis will be rescheduled to a less restrictive category in the future. I bring this up for my friend, John. John was probably the first person I knew that was a "dealer". I hadn't talked to him for years, but he called me up and I helped him apply for a card for his awful pain. John died of cancer a few short months later.... he had no caregivers around him and he died in the nursing home, unable to use the plant he had used all his life to help him get through life. The law needs to change.

19-24.1-35. Facility restrictions.

1. A basic care facility, nursing facility, assisted living facility, adult day care facility, or adult foster care home licensed in the state may adopt reasonable restrictions/allowances on the medical use of marijuana by residents or individuals receiving inpatient services, including:

a. The facility ~~will not~~ may, according to their policies store or maintain the registered qualifying patient's supply of usable marijuana.

b. The facility, caregivers, or hospice agencies serving the facility's residents are not

responsible for providing the usable marijuana for registered qualifying patients or

assisting with the medical use of marijuana, unless they are a registered caregiver and following the facilities policies.

c. Usable marijuana can be consumed by a method other than vaporizing or combustion.

d. Consumption of usable marijuana is limited to a place specified by the facility in their written policy.

This would be a new section and I feel a big one! Our patients have no recourse for poor quality products. Our products are not good for being among the highest priced in the US. It should also be included in the annual report to the legislators.

33-44-01-36. Reporting product complaints by consumers/caregivers.

A registered qualifying patient can report product complaints to the ND Department of Health for tracking and quality assurance, with the Department establishing a reporting track on the webpage. This will include patient ID information, Lot #, purchase date, complaint with photo verification when possible. This will be included in 19-24.1-39.

19-24.1-39. Report to legislative management.

9. Overview of patient quality complaints including

-Number of Complaints

-Type of complaint

I could not give our tincture products in ANY facility because of the current labeling. While I did talk to Mr Neuman from PDH several years ago and they did make changes, it is still not labeled appropriately to dispense. Curaleaf has no labeling on the bottle. This would not fly at any Pharmacy.

33-44-01-26. Manufacturing facility labeling.

1. A manufacturing facility shall label all usable marijuana in accordance with the following before their sale or transfer to a dispensary:

c. A container holding a medical cannabinoid product must include the following information:

A tincture product will have a waterproof/oilproof label directly on the dispensing bottle outlining the name of product and an estimated dosage per drop.

The ability to grow several plants was in our original bill...and the food grade edible is only reasonable. People want to know what dose they are taking.

The major complaint I have gotten from seniors is the tincture packaging and childproof droppers. I haven't had a grandchild in my house for 1 1/2 years....the need for that cap is not necessary and should be an extra option at the dispensary like it is in the pharmacy.

Thank you for looking at these changes, and I stand for questions.

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