

State of North Dakota
Office of the Governor
Doug Burgum
Governor

Doug Burgum

Ronnie Johnson, West Fargo

District 16

Autism, Age 11

Family worked to get autism on debilitating conditions list in 2019

Original-strength pediatric THC tincture provided therapeutic relief of Ronnie's autistic anxiety/self-injury/insomnia

Received original debilitating condition certification (card criteria) from physician employed by a health-care organization that publicly granted provider freedom to do so; Physician quit taking new pediatric cannabis patients after administration discovered her involvement

Family discovered that original pediatric tincture would soon be sold out; Other pediatric THC tincture contained 56% as much medicine, for same price (\$200/30 gram bottle)

Family alerted ND Division of Medical Marijuana of impending pediatric tincture shortage in Sept. 2019

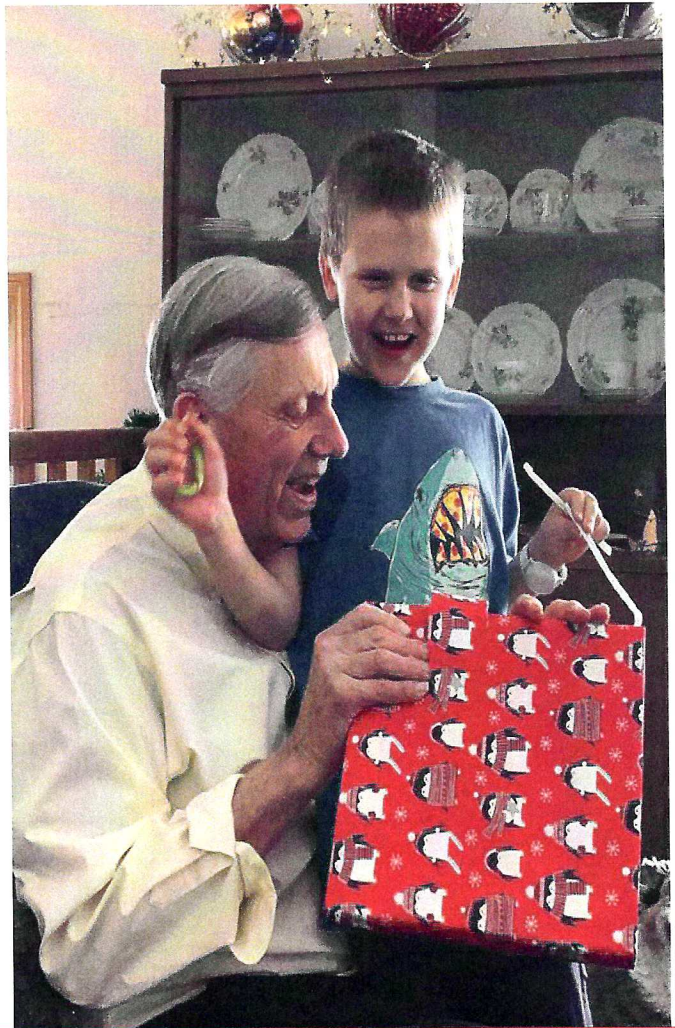
Division recommended contacting growers

Desperate correspondence begging for more original-strength pediatric tincture sent to Pure Dakota (Bismarck) manufacturing facility

No response from Pure Dakota

Desperate correspondence begging for pediatric tincture sent to Grassroots Cannabis (Fargo manufacturing facility)

Grassroots representative reached by phone, listened to mother's plea



When asked for management contact information, Grassroots representative told mother to "Google it!" and hung up

January 2020 meeting with Grassroots Cannabis resulted in promise of a pediatric tincture by July 2020

Original tincture went out of stock

Price tag for a month's supply of available, low THC pediatric tincture for Ronnie rose to \$1,000

Family could no longer afford medical cannabis as Ronnie's primary medication

Ronnie forced to go on risperidone, an antipsychotic with serious side effect risks

Ronnie hospitalized after grand mal seizure in May 2020

Essentia Health confiscated Ronnie's cannabis tincture after initially agreeing to his regular bedtime dose

Unmedicated insomnia sent Ronnie running and screaming through hospital halls

Essentia refused to return cannabis tincture unless Ronnie exited hospital

Cannabis tincture returned to Ronnie's designated caregiver after Ronnie (who had suffered first grand mal seizure just hours before) discharged into rainy parking lot at 3 am

-Grassroots failed to produce promised pediatric tincture by July 2020

Alexa Johnson, mother 701.793.7450

Miley Clarys

District 2, Williston

Autism, Age 7

Makes 12 hr round trip multiple times each year to see a provider who will certify her debilitating condition

Family worked to get autism on debilitating conditions list in 2019

Original-strength pediatric THC tincture proved very therapeutic for Miley's autistic anxiety/self-injury/insomnia

Family alerted Human Services Interim Committee (Nov. 17, 2019 meeting) of pediatric tincture shortage/unaffordability

No timely solutions offered

Family sent letters to both growers, asking for continued production of original strength pediatric tinctures

Received no response from Pure Dakota/Received empty promise for July 2020 pediatric tincture from Grassroots Cannabis

Family can no longer afford cannabis tincture for daytime use



"We can only afford to give Miley a bedtime dose of medical cannabis now. The \$200+ per bottle price forced us to put Miley on gabapentin, which carries risks of serious side-effects. Also, the North Dakota caregiver law makes it impossible for me to leave Miley for any amount of time. I am the only person who can handle her cannabis tincture."

**-Stephanie Carson, mother
Stephanie.Carson91@gmail.com**

Drasyn Olson, Wheatland

District 22

Autism, Age 10

Aggression and anxiety successfully being treated with cannabis ONLY (completely weaned off 3 pharmaceuticals within one year of starting cannabis treatment)

Side effects while dependent on pharmaceuticals:

- 1) heart palpitations
- 2) tardive dyskinesia (involuntary facial movements)
- 3) rapid weight gain (+16 pounds in 8 months)

After medical cannabis:

- 1) heart palpitations stopped
- 2) tardive dyskinesia almost completely subsided
- 3) lost 11 pounds within 1 year



“Cannabis has been a miracle for us. But children deserve access to a broader variety of cannabis strains. The pediatric THC cap of 6% greatly limits medication variety. As Drasyn gets older, I know we will need to rotate strains. He is doing well, but starting to have more trouble in school. The pediatric cap doesn’t protect our children from anything--it just forces us to buy more watered-down product. Additionally, the single caregiver limit puts incredible stress on me. I am the only person who can legally dose Drasyn. My own husband can’t medicate him.”

-Ashley Olson, mother

218-368-0964

naolson82308@gmail.com

