

TESTIMONY OF Mrs. Sandra L. Crue  
BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ON HB 1393 COMPASSIONATE USE ACT OF 2009

Good morning, Chairmen Oliver and Baker, and Members of the Committee. I am Sandra Crue from Seven Valleys, York County PA.

I am submitting this testimony to urge passage of the Compassionate Use Act of 2009 by this Committee and the General Assembly.

As a 41 year old educated woman with Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, you are unable to imagine what daily life can be like during a relapse. The pain that goes through the body was worse than giving birth naturally to my children. I hate the fact how MS has taken a big part of my life and the childhood of my three children. Having to deal with the pain and to watch the helpless faces of my children and husband has been horrible.

House Bill 1393 needs to be passed now, for me and for others suffering this same crippling pain. To lie in bed in the fetal position praying to God for the pain to end is not how I imagined my adult life. I have been on so many medications that have made me so sick, and I deserve the choice to use medical marijuana - a safer and more effective medicine - if I and my Neurologist decide it is an option for my medical needs. Currently medical marijuana is not a choice for me due to FDA approved medications which have damaged my aortic valve and left ventricular, and caused both to leak. It could be in the near future they are repaired and I could be a candidate, but I want to have the opportunity to choose medical marijuana.

Someday, with MS being genetic, one of my children may be diagnosed. I never want to see them in the pain in which I experience daily, and if it means for them to get medical marijuana I will be the one to pay for it. We should be more concerned what others are getting off the street and what it may be laced and grown with. Each of us knows if a family member with an illness that is painful, they would do anything to ease that pain. Some people say marijuana has no real medical benefit, but that's simply untrue. Morphine is given to cancer patients - it sure doesn't cure them, but does ease the suffering. Medical Marijuana does have a medical benefit to ease pain and ours doctors who are trained should be the one along with a patient should be the one to decide. As you may know, multiple sclerosis results in the destruction of the sheaths known as myelin which protect parts of our neurons. There is scientific evidence that marijuana may have a neuro-protective effect on the brain.

This bill needs to be passed and help the public with their pain. My doctors seem to have been trusted enough to prescribe countless medications over the years, including many which have much worse side effects. They should be able to be trusted with this. I spoke with countless friends and family members who also feel the medical marijuana bill needs to pass so they have the choice for themselves or a family member if needed. You never know when tragedy can strike or what you may need to survive.

I know I am not the only Pennsylvania resident with MS, and this bill would allow others access to make the choice. Talk to your family and friends that have a loved one in pain and ask them if they have a choice if they would use or support them in the use of medical marijuana if they have a chronic illness or were on their death bed. My parents whom both are senior citizens worked all their lives - and lived by the law - have watched my decline and never thought in a millions years they would rather me be able to smoke marijuana to ease my pain than to suffer during a relapse. It seems to me that it is ok to smoke marijuana now just as long as you're a high power political figure and you don't inhale. Has the faith been lost on the medical professionals? The trust and expertise needs to be given back to the doctors for them to decide if someone would benefit from using medical marijuana.

And let's face it; the revenue that would be generated would greatly help the residence of Pennsylvania.

My testimony is submitted according to the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Rules of the House of Representatives. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard, and thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dated: 10 / 3 /2009

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