

**SHIRLEE TANNER  
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November 21, 2009

Honorable Frank Oliver  
34E East Wing  
P O Box 202195  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120-2195

Dear Representative Oliver:

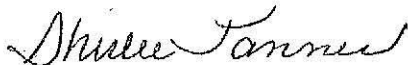
I am writing concerning HB 1393, providing for the medical use of marijuana. I would like my letter submitted as written testimony for the hearing on HB 1393 on December 2, 2009. To "legalize" marijuana for medical use would be doing a great disservice to the entire state of Pennsylvania. Every day more and more of our youth become addicted to illicit drugs and they all begin this addiction with the three gateway drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana.

What kind of message will the passage of HB 1393 send to the youth of Pennsylvania? Preventionists have worked diligently for years throughout Pennsylvania educating youth on the dangers of marijuana use. Now we are going to "take it all back" and call it medicine? States that have legalized marijuana under the guise of medicine continue to rank in the top ten for states with the highest marijuana use in the 12 and older age category. Do not allow Pennsylvania to fall victim to the same fate!

I do not understand why this issue is being addressed by our state legislators. If marijuana is to be used for medical purposes shouldn't the FDA make this decision? They are responsible for controlling what drugs are safe.

I hope you will reject any legislation that could potentially escalate the use and possession of drugs in Pennsylvania. Please protect my family, my community, and the citizens of Pennsylvania and do not legalize marijuana.

Sincerely,



Shirlee Tanner