

Honorable Frank Oliver
34E East Wing
PO 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 HB1393 on December 2, 2009. I am voicing my strong opposition to this bill as a parent, wife, daughter, teacher, and life long resident of Pennsylvania.

I have been a teacher in our public school system for 32 years, I am the teacher representative on our Safe and Drug Free Schools committee, I am on the board of Families of Addiction, a group of people from across the state of Pennsylvania who have come together to help others who have a family member who is using or addicted to drugs.

I believe we are walking a fine line here with marijuana. Who will regulate it? At what age will people be allowed to access it? What kind of message are we sending our children? Where will it be sold? Who will profit from this? Who will have to pay for the consequences of this?

I am the mother of an addict and as with most addicts, cigarettes and marijuana were the first drugs he tried. These are both gateway drugs. We have known this for many years. Pennsylvania is in a crisis right now with drug addiction, the lack of available and accessible treatment, and over crowding in our prisons due to drug use.

I see the legalization of pot, under the guise of "Medical Marijuana", opening a huge flood gate for further use and abuse of drugs in Pennsylvania. Please don't be swayed by the talk of the medicinal use of marijuana. There are many FDA approved medications for all of these conditions.

I attended the hearing on Monday, November 16 that you chaired. My husband is a member of the PPAC, Pennsylvania Parent Advisory Council, and our son, Jeff K.'s picture was shown as part of the slide show. As you know, this panel gave testimony from their personal experiences on what drug usage and addiction had done to their families.

I sincerely ask you to vote against HB 1393.

Thank you.
Sincerely,



Patricia Klenk
Board Member
Families of Addiction