

TESTIMONY OF William Mayers
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 William Mayers from Bucks County. I am submitting this testimony to urge passage of the Compassionate Use Act of 2009 (HB 1393) by this Committee and the General Assembly.

I have -Swyer-James syndrome. It is a rare birth defect. It is the decrease in size of one lung due to obliterating bronchiolitis or some other disorder and resulting in compensatory over inflation of the normal lung. I also have asthma.

I have tried all Doctor prescribed medications for the last 27 years for my conditions - as they are much easier to obtain. Almost all of them are maintenance drugs, to be taken every day for the rest of my life. The side effects from the prescriptions are terrible. Albuterol make me shake, some speed up my heart and make me sick to my stomach for hours. The side effects from a doctor giving me Singulair were horrendous. I experienced horrible stomach pain, fever, diarrhea, and migraine headaches which were so severe I had to work in the dark in my office for days until the drug was out of my system. It did not do anything at all for my breathing. I have tried Advair and I do not get relief for the tight breathing, but I do get a sore throat from the powder inhalant it comes in. I have days where I labor to get air in and out so much that it's exhausting. Muscle relaxers such as ULTRAM do relax my airways, but they render me as a zombie because they put me to sleep. *It takes me a day to recover* after taking one.

I have gotten relief from my asthma/lung condition for years from smoking small amounts of marijuana when my breathing gets tight. I read online about a study where a percentage of people with asthma have had positive effects from smoking a few puffs. For me that has equaled about one puff. Marijuana seems to also increase my lung capacity and I am able to produce deeper breaths after smoking. In fact, marijuana seems to enable me to take deeper breaths than I can take even when I'm not having an asthma attack. That is likely due to THC's effects as a bronchio-dialator.

I average smoking 2 hits (puffs) a week, and the positive effects on my breathing last several days. I also exercise by doing a 15 mile

bike ride 4 times a week. I'm trying my best to remain healthy. The other drugs prevent me from exercising as they make me too sick from the side effects. My asthma doctor recommended that whatever I am doing - keep it up. I'm one of the few patients he has that has improved their condition. If a doctor can recognize that what works, works, then so should this General Assembly.

I personally do not like to take ANY DRUGS besides aspirin and I buy organic foods. I have a successful career as a computer professional for the last 10 years.

I would love to go to a pharmacy or medical marijuana dispensary, and get clean, quality controlled cannabis in a safe and reliable way without being treated like a criminal. You would be surprised what chances you would take in order to breathe easier.

Please vote YES on HB 1393, the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,



Dated: 11 130/2009

William Mayers
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