

PARENT PANEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 SPEAK AS A MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PARENT PANEL ADVISORY COUNCIL, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SPEAK AS A FATHER OF A CHILD WHO BEGAN HER TEN PLUS YEARS OF DRUG ADDICTION, BY USING MARIJUANA. IF I WERE TO INTERVIEW A THOUSAND DRUG ADDICTS, I AM SURE ALL OF THEM WOULD ADMIT THAT THEY BEGAN ON THE ROAD TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE WITH THEIR FIRST MARIJUANA CIGARETTE. I FEEL THAT LEGALIZING MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE WOULD BE DOING A GREAT DISSERVICE TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. MARIJUANA IS NOT A MEDICINE. IF IT WERE, THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WOULD REGULATE IT. IF IT WERE A MEDICINE, IT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE FORM OF A PILL AS OTHER MEDICINES ARE DISPENSED.

OUR DAUGHTER PROGRESSED FROM MARIJUANA TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, TO COCAINE AND FINALLY DIED FROM AN OVERDOSE OF HEROIN AT THE AGE OF 28. THROUGHOUT HER YEARS OF DRUG ADDICTION, MARIJUANA WAS ALWAYS THERE IN HER REPERTOIRE OF "DRUGS OF CHOICE."

PLEASE DON'T OPEN THE DOOR FOR MARIJUANA TO BE LEGALIZED BY PRETENDING TO OFFER "MEDICAL MARIJUANA" AS A PAIN MEDICATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GRAVELY ILL. PLEASE PROTECT ME AND MY FAMILY BY VOTING "NO" ON BILL 1393.

SINCERELY,



THOMAS A. MOREKEN

South East

Linda Eckman
L.W. Nelson
Karen Brown Vellucci

South Central

Lynne Bennett
Lori Mentzer
Charlene Sciarretta

South West

John Clayton
Sheri Flathaway
Ronald Owen
Joan Ward

North West

Fredenca J. Hood
Charles Klenk

North East

Roseanne Gallagher
Carol Hillard
Jane Holbrook
Thomas Moreken