



Pennsylvania  
MEDICAL SOCIETY®

*Doctors and Patients. Preserve the Relationship.®*

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November 25, 2009

The Honorable Matt Baker, Chair  
House Republican Health & Human Services Committee  
PA House of Representatives  
House Box 202068  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2068

Dear Chairman Baker:

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Medical Society regarding House Bill 1393, which would provide for the use of medical marijuana. Although the Society has not had occasion to address the issue formally, the American Medical Association (AMA) has established a clear policy on medical marijuana. That policy is as follows.

First, the AMA has called for further well-controlled studies in patients who have serious conditions for which evidence suggests a possible efficacy.

The AMA also urges that marijuana's status as a federal Schedule I controlled substance be reviewed with the goal of facilitating the conduct of clinical research and development of cannabinoid-based medicines, and alternate delivery methods. The policy clearly states that this should not be viewed as an endorsement of state-based medical cannabis programs, the legalization of marijuana, or that scientific evidence on the therapeutic use of cannabis meets the current standards for a prescription drug product.

The AMA has urged the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to implement administrative procedures to facilitate grant applications and the conduct of clinical research into the medical utility of marijuana.

Finally, the AMA believes that effective patient care requires the free and unfettered exchange of information on treatment alternatives and that discussion of these alternatives between physicians and patients should not subject either party to criminal sanctions.

I hope this information is useful to you in your deliberations on House Bill 1393.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Honorable Frank Oliver