

TESTIMONY OF Zac Czerwinski
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. My name is Zac Czerwinski, and I am from Waterford, Pennsylvania. I am submitting this testimony to urge passage of the Compassionate Use Act of 2009 by this Committee and the General Assembly.

I am a high school student who was recently diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a form of aggressive cancer common in teenage, white males.

I know Medical Marijuana could help me because I am undergoing chemotherapy presently, and will be again in late January. Chemotherapy induces severe nausea during the actual treatment and sometimes for up to a week afterward. The prescription medications intended to combat chemotherapy induced nausea have many terrible side-effects, including headaches and an almost certain sleep period 3-4 hours after taking a dose, just to name a few. I also have no idea what these tablets are comprised of, making me wary of taking them. Marijuana treats this severe nausea immediately, with no unpleasant side-effects, long-term or temporary. Marijuana also treats the severe pain that comes with my condition, naturally. Overall, Marijuana makes dealing with my cancer a little bit easier while giving me comfort.

I believe this is "an idea whose time has come, for a new, honest view of marijuana, a time for cures, not wars on patients" because Pennsylvania citizens are suffering and passing this bill would be big step forward to helping them. It is not morally right or justifiable, in my opinion, to be arresting anyone who is finding help or improving their quality of life by using Medical Marijuana. I feel this needs to be done as soon as possible, because although most of the people who are making the decision with this law have time to spare, many of the sick people it will benefit do not.

My testimony is submitted according to the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Rules of the House of Representatives. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Dated: 11 / 30 /2009

Sincerely,



Zac Czerwinski
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