



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

TOM CORBETT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

16TH FLOOR  
STRAWBERRY SQUARE  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120  
(717) 787-3381

December 1, 2009

The Honorable Frank L. Oliver, Sr.  
Chairman, Health & Human Services Committee  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
34E East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2195

Dear Chairman Oliver:

This letter concerns House Bill 1393, sponsored by Representative Mark Cohen, which is currently pending before the House Health and Human Services Committee. While I have the deepest compassion for those who suffer from chronic illness and pain, I must oppose this proposal which stands to legalize a drug that continues to have destructive effects on our society.

The Drug Enforcement Agency has designated marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance, the most restrictive schedule. A Schedule I drug is defined as a drug with a high potential for abuse, for which there is no accepted medical use in this country and which has a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision. House Bill 1393 would sanction the acquisition, possession, cultivation, manufacture, use, delivery, transfer and transportation of marijuana and drug paraphernalia by patients, caregivers and even children under the age of 18. The legalization of such a substance, even under limited conditions, could serve to compound the dangers that drugs already present to the health, safety, and welfare of every Pennsylvanian. Even if the state law is amended by enacting this legislation, the possession and sale of marijuana will remain a crime under federal law.

Each day, my office encounters tragic examples of the devastating consequences of drug abuse. The more readily available these substances become, the more lives stand to be ruined. I respectfully urge you and other members of the Committee to reject any proposal that would weaken Pennsylvania's existing drug laws.

Sincerely,

TOM CORBETT  
Attorney General

cc: Representative Matthew Baker, Minority Chairman  
Pennsylvania House Health & Human Services Committee Members