



3/20/18

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

My name is Stacey Linn, I am the Executive Director and co-founder of CannAbility Foundation. We seek to provide education, advocacy and resources to support families with special needs children who wish to treat their children's debilitating medical conditions with medical marijuana. We also advocate for safe and effective access to medical marijuana through sensible policy and education.

I am writing to you in support HB 1187, which would allow pharmacies to dispense GW Pharma's CBD concentrate, Epidiolex, for the treatment of fatal seizure disorders (once they receive FDA approval to do so). CBD first received popular support when it was discovered that a child named Charlotte was successfully using CBD for the treatment of Dravet's Syndrome--a catastrophic seizure disorder that kills most children before they reach age two. GW has applied for FDA approval of Epidiolex to treat Dravet's Syndrome (and Lennox Gastaut Syndrome--another catastrophic seizure disorder). I believe that more children will have access to life saving, high quality medicine as a result of this bill. It could also create a pathway for insurance to cover the cost of CBD medicine, which will help families afford CBD treatment who are already struggling financially to raise a child with extreme medical needs. Dispensing from a pharmacy also creates more traditionally recognized pathway for receiving medicine, which could help parents overcome the stigma of using cannabis-based medicine.

Perhaps just as important, this bill contains language that will protect Colorado's current system of dispensing medical marijuana, while creating a new "lane" to dispense CBD from a pharmacy. As Big Pharma enters the world of marijuana medicine, it is vital to patient health that we maintain our Colorado Constitutional rights to access medical marijuana through dispensaries and home grows. In addition, we will be setting policy that other states can follow to maintain current access to medical marijuana. It would be difficult to support the bill without this language, as it protects full patient access to marijuana medicine. Without that protection, we could actually see less access to CBD (if the only outlet for CBD was through a pharmacy).

By supporting this bill, you are supporting children whose lives are prolonged and markedly improved by using CBD--a medicine that has no lethal side effects, and you are helping to create another avenue of safe access.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Linn  
Executive Director  
CannAbility Foundation

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[www.cannabilityfoundation.org](http://www.cannabilityfoundation.org)