

Samantha Brown
South Berwick
LD 94

Honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Samantha Brown of South Berwick.

Today I rise **STRONGLY AGAINST LD 94.**

My daughter, now age 11 has been a cannabis patient since 2013 when she was diagnosed with Dravet Syndrome. A pharmaceutical resistant catastrophic form of epilepsy.

A complete shock to us, our beautiful healthy baby girl had her first seizure at 9 months old within 30 days of her last vaccinations. Watching her convulse non stop while she turned blue is one of the most awful things a parent will ever have to endure. She was rushed to the ER where they gave her medicine that stopped her 1 hour long seizure.

We have experienced multiple seizures like the first. Our ambulance trips were once a month. We have failed multiple anti epileptic drugs that were prescribed by western medicine doctors, found ourselves addicted to them, and had to go through years of weaning.

While western medicine drugs are “studied” and the dangerous side effects are known, it makes them first line treatment, even though these treatments are known to be ineffective for Dravet syndrome. I had to bring my daughter elsewhere to use a safer and most effective medicine, that is available at my very fingertips. Not one western medicine doctor that was on my daughter’s team would sign their name on a medical cannabis certificate. Cannabis has not been adopted by Western medicine.

In 2015, with help of Senator Eric Brakey, we introduced a bill that would encourage hospitals to change policy to allow cannabis in their facilities, as hospital policy was restricting and bullying parents like myself against giving cannabis to their children when they were in emergency situations. You can not abruptly take medicine away from a seizure patient. To this day, they are **STILL** bullying patients and they **STILL** reject cannabis as a treatment.

Seizures are a known side effect listed on vaccine inserts, I decided no more. This leaves us in a situation of medical bullying and lack of PCPs that will take my child, pushing us to find alternative medical providers, aside from her neurologist. When I first saw this bill come out, I freaked out and immediately called her doctor who writes out her cannabis certification, and asked him “what the heck am I going to do?” his answer was “fight this!”

Cannabis has eliminated the lengthy seizures that caused her to be a prisoner to the house in anticipation of a call for an ambulance. We have not needed the hospital or their policy in years. This bill puts us in the very system that hurts her. Cannabis has helps her quality of life and allows us to adventure including travel which is something we were never able to do while dealing with pharmaceuticals.

This horrible language came out last hour, not available to the public, is despicable, sneaky and non democratic. No one can absorb this bill the night before and tell everyone about it to testify. This is a disgusting bill, and I beg you, not to take medicine away from daughter.

Thank you.