

Elizabeth Hayes

Mercer

LD 94

To the members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Elizabeth Hayes, a resident of Mercer, and medical cannabis patient and caregiver. I am submitting testimony to voice my opposition to LD94, An act Regarding the Use of Medical Cannabis by Minors.

In regard to the bill as it was initially written: I wanted to ensure the committee is made aware of the fact that due to the federal status of cannabis, many primary care doctors are prohibited from issuing medical certifications to their patients, even if they feel their patient would benefit from cannabis, and that it would be a safer treatment than pharmaceutical alternatives. When I discussed cannabis with my primary care provider, my doctor told me that while he did believe that cannabis was an appropriate treatment for my condition the hospital that he worked for had prohibited him from issuing patient certifications. He said hospital administrators were concerned it would jeopardize the federal funding that they received. I am concerned that the sponsor of this bill may not understand or appreciate how this would create barriers to parents looking for solutions for a child with a serious medical condition.

Regarding the proposed amendment: These proposed changes to the medical program are absolutely over the top. Specifically excluding cannabis concentrated from the definition of medical cannabis shows a lack of knowledge of how patients use cannabis to treat life threatening conditions.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD94.