

I am writing to submit testimony regarding the Vermont medical cannabis Program. I am currently a registered patient in the Vermont Medical Cannabis Program and have been involved with this program as a registered patient for many years.

I am sad to say that most of my experience with this program has been less than positive. From my first appointment at Champlain Valley Dispensary in Burlington VT when I was informed that they did not have enough stock to cover my needs, thus I could not purchase (what I had driven 2 hours one way to purchase) nor did they have the products I was in need of to my last appointment at Grass Roots Dispensary in Brandon VT (in April 2018) when I was again told that they did not have the products that I was in need to help combat side effects from Chemotherapy.

The prices being charged to patients utilizing the Vermont Medical Cannabis Program are very high and make obtaining this medicine unattainable, as patients have to pay out of pocket. At my last appointment at Grass Roots Dispensary I was charged \$55.00 for 1 Oz of glycerin tincture containing 1.09 gram of flower. Grass Roots charges \$12.50 per gram for flower. I was taken aback by the price of the tincture and contacted Grass Roots requesting an answer as to why the cost for the tincture was so high. I never received an answer to my email or to my question regarding the price of the tincture. I was purchasing this tincture to combat the side effects of chemotherapy for a second diagnosis of breast cancer. Due to the high price that Grass Roots charges its patients, I was unable to purchase the medication that I needed.

I am asking that Vermont Medical Cannabis patients be allowed to grow the same three (3) plants that dispensary's are allowed to grow for each of their patients. I am asking that this grow be allowed to exist outside as building an inside, contained room is not possible for me nor for many other patients needing to grow cannabis to ensure a better quality of life for themselves.

I am very concerned about the funds that were diverted from the Vermont Medical Cannabis Program into the general fund. Why were these funds not used to offset the cost associated with obtaining cannabis for the patients who are currently registered? I am quite sure that those who are involved in these hearings are aware that many patients are unable to obtain their needed medicine due to the high cost that the dispensary's are charging for their product.

I am also aware of the sub par product that has been offered for sale as a medicine by many of the dispensary's. Moldy Product. Infested with bugs product. Underweight product. Product being sold that was grown with contaminants. If this was product that YOU were being asked to purchase for the high price that is asked.....how you YOU feel?

I am asking for compassion, empathy and understanding on the part of those who are administering the Vermont Medical Cannabis Program. I do not think this is too much to ask for.

Thank you for your time.

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