

My Name is Kelli Feeney and I am a current Vermont Medical Marijuana patient. I am writing to you on behalf of myself and all statewide patients to urge you to let us testify on during hearings for S.16. This is of utmost importance, especially right now when we risk allowing more unacceptable medicine to be dispensed to the patients. The owners of the current dispensaries lack the knowledge and professionalism to be running their own dispensaries, much less try to open a satellite or another full dispensary.

In my 3 years in the program, I have seen barely any growth as far as quality of medicine. In fact, quality and consistency have declined due to poor growing knowledge, heat, mold, and mildew problems. Patients need to be heard and considered when this decision is being made. We deserve to have a clean, healthy place to obtain our medicine and right now we don't. I have traveled as far as Nevada to get myself medicine and I am glad I did. The product selection, the knowledge, the atmosphere, and the cleanliness were all there. Why do I have to travel across the country to find that when I live in a state that prides itself on agriculture. We need dispensaries that care about the patients, not the money. Dispensaries that are designed for the patients, not something corporate. Give us more options. Please don't leave the fate of our health in the hands of only a few that may not have our best interests at heart.

I also ask that you please consider training programs, certifications, and inspections just as you would with Nursing, Body Art, Healthcare, or Hospitality. And, give this to a special committee with knowledge of what to look for and how to train. If a hair salon has to follow regulations, why don't the people growing our medicine? Patients are being forced into the black market, they are not being instructed properly on how use their meds, and are being misguided by dispensary workers as to the the proper laws and language regarding their medicine. I walked in to my previous dispensary on my very first appointment there and had the "bud tender" ask me if I was "ready to play with some pot?" No, I am not. I am there for my medicine, not to play, not to mess around, I am there to get better. The current dispensary owners don't seem to understand this. Please listen to the people. Let us speak and tell you our stories.

Thank you for your time,  
Kelli Feeney