

Although a resident of the Granite State, as a radiation oncologist who for more than ten years has been practicing here at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and also at our St. Johnsbury outreach clinic, I see about five score patients every year who are citizens of the lovely state of Vermont.

I am writing you to express my grave concerns about S.216, which you are considering this Thursday, May 3rd. This bill aims to expand the definition of “debilitating medical conditions” in which medical marijuana could be deemed as a qualified treatment.

Specifically, the bill includes a vast spectrum of potentially qualifying conditions: “Other diseases, conditions, or treatment as determined in writing by a qualifying patient’s health care professional.”

This is crazy. The net effect of this language would essentially qualify any physical or mental health condition – regardless of the patient’s age, regardless of the evidence, and regardless of common sense.

The bill also circumscribes doctors’ medical decision-making, stating that marijuana use may not be the sole factor in disqualifying a patient from a medical service. This also is wrong. Physicians caring for their patients must be able to weigh every factor that may impact their patients’ health.

Please vote NO on s.216.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

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