

Dear Senator Lyons –

I hope you are well and get to enjoy some time outside this weekend! I wanted to touch base with you about a possible plan for the miscellaneous cannabis bill H.270. The bill will hopefully be out of Economic Development next week, but it still needs to go to Finance and Appropriations. The bill makes changes to the medical cannabis program, but given the timing, I was wondering if we might be able to present testimony to Health and Welfare (and incorporate your input) without your committee needing to take possession of it. VMS had the more controversial changes removed in the House, and what is left is relatively modest and mostly aimed at supporting patients if one or more of the medical cannabis dispensaries decide to close this year. Here's a summary:

1. eliminates the need for an applicant seeking a medical card for PTSD to be actively undergoing psychotherapy in order to qualify for the program;
  2. expands the home grow allowance for registered patients;
  3. substitutes the requirement for caregivers to acquire a fingerprint-supported background check with a requirement for a Vermont criminal conviction background check and checks of the Child Protection Registry and the Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Registry;
  4. allows a single caregiver to serve up to two patients at a time and would allow the CCB to appoint more than two caregivers to a patient who is a minor on a case-by-case basis;
  5. extends the expiration date of a medical card from one year to five years for patients with lifelong conditions; and
  6. allows the CCB to require 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing of medical cannabis and basic training for employees of the medical dispensaries.
- \*7. Senator Clarkson would like to add a reporting requirement to this section directing the CCB to propose legislation next year that would more holistically address the structural issues with the medical program.

We can provide patient and caregiver witness suggestions if you like, or you could keep it to Jill and me.

Thank you for your consideration!

Brynn

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