Sarah Baugh
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1/24/2011
HB 43

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/24/2011
HB HB 43

Dear Ladies, Gentlemen, & Mr. Chairman,

My name is Sarah Baugh. I am from Central Montana, and I strongly urge you to oppose HB43.

I have severe epilepsy. As I presented this committee with written testimony regarding the extent to which medical cannabis has changed my life just this Friday, I will simply emphasize now that while on pharmaceutical treatment I was still having 5-12 seizures daily. Since my use of medical cannabis I have been totally seizure-free for more than 1 year.

Being seizure-free means a great many positive things for epileptics. One of the most positive changes my whole family has benefited from is for the first time in more than 5 years, I can work.

As a medical cannabis patient I have already faced a great deal of discrimination and prejudice based on my medication. I have already lost 1 job as a housekeeper for CMMC, which did not require me to operate any machinery or even interact with the public simply because I have no other medical alternative to control my seizures.

We as a community truly understand the valid concerns that employers have regarding medical cannabis. But there must be a compromise which does not include discrimination!! It is not in the state's interest to allow employees to be legally terminated for healthcare reasons alone.

Determining factors for terminating patients should include job performance, coming to work impaired, or medicating on the job site. I would beg the state not to take away legitimate income. Many of us have medical debt and are simply trying to stay alive.

If this bill passes and I lose my job, my family is not the only one who will suffer. Every person and company to whom we pay bills will suffer because I will not be able to pay.

I want and deserve to be a productive member of society. I do not want to be forced into a particular type of job and further limit my options for the future just because of health difficulties. I am a responsible, valuable, and productive member of society. Medical cannabis has given me and so many an opportunity for a normal life. Please do not take it away.

Thank you so much for your time & efforts on this matter.

I also support the recommendation by the MMGA for revision to the ammendment.

Sarah Baugh

ps- 2 years ago it would have been impossible for me to hand-write a letter. I have had my handwriting and fine motor skills RETURNED to me because of medical cannabis- SCB