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EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2/2/2011
HB 161

1-It was the sound of a bone saw shrieking its way through a human skull that made me decide to opt for Medical Cannabis. (But only *AFTER* 20 years of VA anti-seizure medications had shown little effect in controlling my condition.)

2-Repeal is to return to all out Prohibition, which is nihilism, and denial, these patients are real people, your neighbors, coworkers and family members, how can you deny them their medication based on your own ignorance and prejudice?

3-Prohibition only turns a social/medical issue into a criminal one, and **ONLY** Organized Crime benefits. (At society's expense!)

4-The people of Montana voted, and now you want to accuse them of naivete, not knowing it would become an industry, wanting law enforcement to battle a non issue over the will of the people. The industry exists to provide care and it is simply supply and demand.

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having the hemispheres of my brain separated.

So I went online and found the operation, pretty standard, they drill a hole in your skull, then use a bone saw to cut a hole big enough to get in there with the tools to finish the job. I watched several times and opted to move to Colorado and use Medical Cannabis legally instead, **INSTEAD OF HAVING A SAW USED ON MY SKULL!**

I had tried the standard seizure Treatment Medications from 1986-2006. I can **DEFINITELY** state that for me:

All seizure medications I had been on caused mood swings, irritability, insomnia, and they adversely affected my ability to focus.

NOW for 3 years I **HAVE NONE** of those Medication induced **SIDE EFFECTS** AND I **CAN FOCUS!!**

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NO REQUIEM FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS!!

In Montana Cannabis Caregivers take their patients needs seriously and tailor medical cannabis for your necessity. I attended the last meeting in Helena on the issue of Medical Cannabis, and this panel seems to have their minds made up! Let me tell you what made my mind up!

It was the sound of a bone saw biting into a skull that convinced me to try the alternate medication known as MEDICAL CANNABIS seriously.

That was in late 2006. Since 1986 I have been under care for seizures that began after a tank accident in the USARMY. I was told by my VA doctor in Nebraska that if standard medication was unable to control my seizures effectively, there was always the option of

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5-Don't look to Colorado create an atmosphere of trust for your people here and don't turn your back on these patients in need.

6-This isn't some tawdry or immoral thing, in spite of the prejudiced lack of objectivity on the part of those who want to repeal this law, the reasons it was made illegal in the first place is a matter of historical record. Don't follow in the footsteps of those who were guilty of depriving Americans of this gift. It was wrong to EVER make it a Schedule 1.

5-The VA knows I use Medical Cannabis for my seizures and migraines and focus and they are the first Federal Agency to get in line with this policy change. Don't be on the wrong side of good progress! 70 years of lies and subterfuge in a failed war on this is enough, don't reverse gears and trample on the rights and livelihood and health care concerns of Montanans, DO NOT REPEAL! Stay in step WITH THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

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In Helena now they talk of repealing the law permitting me to have Medical Cannabis.

Those languishing in ignorance regarding this subject are imperilling their neighbors, their friends, coworkers, even their own family, and these IGNORANT people must stop thinking of it as an illicit menace and be educated or THEY ARE THE MENACE! They are menacing countless Montana citizens who need this for pain management, (and of course PTSD, ADHD, anger management and other related issues) for seizures, and just for many health related reasons.

Montana is looking at the Colorado model, a BIG MISTAKE, I moved here because unfortunately Colorado has many problems in the way their system is run and from what I have personally witnessed Montana already does it better in many ways. I will elaborate

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but right now my perspective in the committee hearing on the bills on Friday JAN 21 was as follows:

Limiting patients to 2 ounces a month is an arbitrary, punitive and not a therapeutic measure. I have seizures and migraines, some months I need more Medical Cannabis, some months less, so who on this legislating body can decide what is a therapeutic amount for me as a patient?

Secondly, making chronic pain patients seek more than one doctors assertion is a financially punitive measure, most people I know on the registry with chronic pain have a terrible time with doctors taking them seriously. Pain is subjective and most doctors have been trained to ignore it because it is not consistently able to be measured. PAIN is a personal thing, often not generating corroborative empirical data. I know people

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who have been to doctors for years trying to get help with chronic pain and have been turned away, because there was nothing to be done or treated suspiciously, like they are trying to get drugs. I say requiring 2 doctors to sign off is needless abuse of patients who are already tired of the system ignoring their needs. PAIN is REAL! Why punish those with chronic pain by making them jump through more hoops and spend more money than those without pain?

I had a tank accident in '86 and as a result of that TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) am a Disabled Vet since 1988. I worked as a counselor in Youth and Family Services in three states until my service connected disability got worse.

I worked closely with Law Enforcement, and Social Services and I know how entrenched ideas can be. They have been trained even

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brainwashed to believe it should be a Schedule 1 drug based on nothing but the same hyperbole and hysteria that swept the Bureau of Narcotics into power...but I digress, as stated earlier, when my condition worsened the VA proposed the possibility of brain surgery for my seizures, I watched the exact operation online and began looking for alternatives. I discovered Medical Cannabis had been used for millenia in the treatment of seizures and it's efficacy well documented. I thought it had to be better than having somebody use a bonesaw on my skull. So I moved and began experimenting and discovered that Medical Cannabis has diminished the intensity and duration of my seizures, and migraines and improved my ability to focus.

We need good communication between Grower Caregivers, the Legislators, Law Enforcement and those in need who are on the

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Registry for all to coexist in peaceful understanding instead of suspicion.

The most common misperception appears to be that we are a bunch of pot smoking liberals, leftist hippie types trying to undermine the efforts to control a potentially dangerous drug. If you read the history of this plant, it was made illegal in the first place and demonized only due to political lobbying on the part of the Duponts (who stood to lose a lot of money if hemp was competing with their new product, Nylon) and the Hearst's (whose timber operations in Mexico had been nationalized, hemp pulp for newspapers was about to become a cheaper alternative than timber, and they wanted to continue to have a monopoly).

I am in fact a conservative, (I voted for Ronald Reagan twice and firmly believe in the rule of law or I couldn't have been a counselor

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authorities to respect their need to provide for their patients?

That is the crux. Trust. Law Enforcement is often underinformed about the growers. There is little defined and it needs to be, this issue is not going away, someone has to grow and provide the Medical Cannabis for the patients who cannot or will not grow for themselves. This isn't about recreational smoking, this is about alleviating suffering and Helping people.

I have examined this situation and believe that in order for Law Enforcement and the Growers to be comfortable there has to be transparency, accountability, self regulation, and security. I will address these issue one at a time.

Transparency:

The grows need not be covert ops, but for their own safety their location should not be broadcast. The growers books and grows need

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to be open to inspection. (With the caveat that no plants will be compromised in their development by an interruption of their 12 hour dark cycle during budding.) The patients HIPA information will be kept secure but the patients registry numbers will be available upon request.

Legitimate growers don't want to be covert, except for their own protection. They want to pay their taxes and have their businesses available to the protection and service of Law Enforcement. As it stands now though, there is uncertainty and an element of fear pervades among the growers and caregivers because those undefined gray areas make them a potential target for prosecution.

I am proposing that an oversight committee be created to improve

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communication between this fledgling industry and the powers that be. The best way to get the criminal element out is to put the grows into the hands of legitimate Registered growers who are growing Medical Cannabis for the patients benefit, and not to line their own pockets.

Prohibition of alcohol failed to do anything but make the bootleggers powerful criminals, with political influence trying to keep alcohol illegal because it would cut into their profits. The fact is **IT IS THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT** do not want regulation, or legislation, they want continued prohibition. When it becomes a medically available commodity you put the criminals further outside. There is little profit in that for them.

People with the desire to provide care should be able to have no fear of reprisal

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from the authorities. Not only are their lives cast into turmoil, but disruptions in growth cause this legitimate market to suffer an influx of an unsafe element.

SELF REGULATION: You who thought it wouldn't become an industry forgot the first rule of economics, supply and demand.

In a market driven economy when the authorities are involved appropriately, there is always a certain amount of self regulation needed on the part of any industry.

Ultimately, consistency, quality and a concern for providing good service will lead consumers to choose which establishments they want to frequent. In the field of **MEDICAL CANNABIS**, quality control is essential because strains suitable for treating the various pathologies and ailments can be grown to exacting specifications. In the proper environment patients would have access

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to kinds specifically geared to their needs. When I say self regulation I mean only that cultivation methodology should be left to the grower/caregivers, as various strains respond better to specific conditions. As time progresses with this being done legitimately, growers will become more proficient at their craft. With patient feedback it will become even more clear which kinds have greater effectiveness in providing which therapeutic benefits to whom. It is imperative to be able to keep the patient in the loop with the caregiver/growers, breeding plants with characteristics targeted to specific medical issues and needs.

SECURITY:

Given a choice between a clandestine rendezvous in an unsafe and non-legal environment, or purchasing their medicine from a caregivers dispensary which cooperates

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fully with the legal authorities, patients will of course choose the safest legal method to acquire their medicine. Under the auspices of the Registry, which does not address all issues, patients are given the right to acquire and utilize medical marijuana, but since some legal issues have not been addressed, they and their caregivers /growers, are still subject to all the full penalty of law in those gray areas.

We need better Education and Communication.

Not Prohibition! DO NOT REPEAL!