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Medical Marijuana Ballot Causes Disagreement

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By Christine Corrado
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BILLINGS - A joint news was conference was held Wednesday as Montana State Senator Jeff Essmann discusses a complaint he has against an advocacy group of Initiative I-124, the repeal of stricter regulations on medical marijuana.

In addition to Senator Essmann's complaint, Safe Community Safe Kids announced the group is filing a complaint against the Attorney General's office for misleading wording in initiative I-124.

Essmann hosted the news conference at Jake's Steak House and doesn't agree with a deceptive ad that was put out by Patients for Reform, an advocacy group of Initiative I-124.

"Those words were misleading they're deceptive, they tried to insinuate that I support the repeal of SP-423, and I definitely do not support the repeal of SP-423."

SP-423 would uphold the state legislature's decision to make the Montana's medical marijuana laws more strict. Patients for Reform Campaign Manager Bob Brigham was there to respond.

"It's very important for voters to know that Jeff Essmann's own Republican party took the historic step of putting language in their platform complaining about what a bad bill he wrote. That's Essmann's own party."

Members of the group Safe Community Safe Kids were also there announcing the group is filing a complaint against the Attorney General's office for allowing confusing language on ballot initiative I-124.

"We have a complaint against the Attorney General's office that the ballot language is

misleading. And, we don't think it's right."

Jim Malloy, Assistant Attorney General shot back at the group, saying the complaint is clearly a political ploy against candidate for governor Steve Bullock.

"I think it's pretty transparent that you're three weeks away from a hotly contested gubernatorial race, if you can find a way to use a word like complaint against one of the candidates, that there's a political agenda going on."

The clarification is this: if you vote yes for 423, you're voting for tighter restrictions on medical marijuana. Election day is November 6th, for more information on Initiative 423, click on [Connections](#).