



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 4, 2011
TO: Members of the Delaware House of Representatives
FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson ^{DMP/r}
State Council for Persons with Disabilities
RE: S.B. 17 [Medical Marijuana Act]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 17, which creates an exception to Delaware's criminal laws to permit doctor-recommended medical use of marijuana by patients with serious medical conditions. The proposed legislation would authorize physicians to issue a written certification essentially prescribing marijuana for a "debilitating medical condition" which includes glaucoma, cancer, HIV, and PTSD. The patient then forwards the authorization to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). DHSS then confirms the information and issues an identification card to the patient and registered caregiver. The patient or caregiver can then obtain marijuana from one of three non-profit distribution centers.

SCPD endorses this legislation since it would offer a mode of treatment currently unavailable to persons with certain debilitating conditions. Currently, 15 states and D.C. have enacted laws authorizing limited access to marijuana for medical purposes. In addition, the system appears to include many safeguards against misuse. At the same time, the value of marijuana for medicinal purposes appears has been validated in many studies and recognized by the American Academy of Physicians, the American Nurses Association, and the American Public Health Association.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
Members of the Delaware Senate
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council