



WOMEN'S STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 73 MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT

Whereas, The federal government's classification of cannabis as a Schedule I substance has impeded research and medical progress for the past several decades;

Whereas, According to the director of the Utah Department of Health, 24 Utahns die on average each month from overdosing on opiate-based prescription medication;

Whereas, According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, states that legalize medical cannabis see around a 25% reduction in opiate overdose deaths;

Whereas, Despite widespread illegal use, no Utahns have died from overdosing on cannabis;

Whereas, Medical research and anecdotal evidence suggest the beneficial use of cannabis for a wide range of conditions;

Whereas, Twenty-three states have legalized medical cannabis to provide access to patients spanning a wide range of serious medical conditions;

Whereas, Utahns with cancer, chronic pain, Crohn's disease, MS, ALS, epilepsy, HIV, PTSD, and other serious medical conditions should have the freedom to try cannabis as a medical treatment under the direction of their physician;

Whereas, The various components of the cannabis plant have differing functions and benefits, and work complementary as part of the "entourage effect;"

Whereas, Many Utahns now use cannabis illegally for medical purposes, placing themselves at significant legal risk out of a desire to increase their health; and

Whereas, Sick and suffering Utahns in need of cannabis for medical use should not be fined or incarcerated, nor risk their children being taken into state custody; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Women's State Legislative Council of Utah urges the Utah State Legislature to enact comprehensive medical cannabis reform that allows Utahns with serious medical conditions to obtain and use cannabis with their doctor's recommendation.

Dated this 17th day of February 2016

Shauna Scott-Bellacomo, President

Women's State Legislative Council of Utah

Kitty Kaplan, Director

Health & Human Services

Legislative Study Committee

Heather Williamson, Co-Chair

Health & Human Services

Legislative Study Committee