



January 26, 2012

Michele Leonhart, Administrator
Attn: Administrator
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Subject: *Rulemaking petition to reclassify cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule II*

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

We write in support of the petition that Governor Gregoire and Governor Chafee recently submitted to initiate rulemaking proceedings for the reclassification of medical cannabis (also known as marijuana) from Schedule I to Schedule II of the CSA.

As Mayors responsible for upholding the laws of our community, state and federal government, we need resolution regarding the legality of medical cannabis. We are caught in the middle of the desire expressed by the residents of our state to see cannabis available for medical use and the federal government's absolute inflexibility in regards to the medical benefits of cannabis. It is an untenable situation for our communities and has cost our cities significant time and resources to address.

We sympathize with patients suffering from serious medical conditions who could benefit from medical use of cannabis and do not have a safe and consistent source of the drug. The divergence in state and federal law creates a situation where there is no regulated and safe system to supply legitimate patients who may need medical cannabis. The federal government could quickly solve the issue if it reclassified cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule II drug, which we believe the petition provides substantiated peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support.

The solution lies with the federal government. We urge the DEA to immediately initiate rulemaking proceedings to reclassify medical cannabis as a Schedule II drug so qualifying patients who follow state law may obtain the medication they need through the traditional and safe method of physician prescribing and pharmacy dispensing.

This letter reflects the support of those cities who have signed and not all cities within the State of Washington. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lisa Walters
Mayor, City of Battle Ground


Craig George
Mayor, City of Dayton


Carrie Lacher
Mayor, Town of Friday Harbor


Margaret Harto
Mayor, City of Covington


Dave Earling
Mayor, City of Edmonds

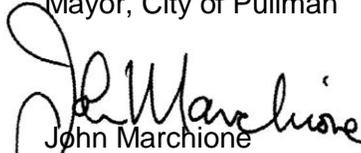

Ava Frisinger
Mayor, City of Issaquah


Suzette Cooke
Mayor, City of Kent


Glenn Johnson
Mayor, City of Pullman


Marilyn Strickland
Mayor, City of Tacoma


Dorothy Slagle
Mayor, City of Kettle Falls


John Marchione
Mayor, City of Redmond


Pete Kmet
Mayor, City of Tumwater


Joe Marine
Mayor, City of Mukilteo


Mike Anderson
Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley

cc: The Honorable Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D., FDA Commissioner