

Proposal 1

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO PERMIT THE USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The proposed law would:

- Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.
- Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.
- Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.
- Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.

People voting YES on this law argue that:

- Allowing terminally and seriously ill patients battling diseases like cancer and HIV/AIDS to use medical marijuana, with their doctor's approval, will allow patients to relieve their pain and suffering and improve their quality of life.
- Patients in Michigan who are battling diseases like cancer, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses unfairly face prison by using medical marijuana to relieve their pain and suffering.
- Registry identification cards will allow law enforcement officials to easily regulate medical marijuana use and ensure it is only being used by seriously ill patients who have permission from their doctors. It also establishes penalties for false statements and fraudulent cards.
- Common-sense restrictions will regulate the use of medical marijuana, including prohibiting its use in public places and driving under the influence of marijuana.
- Only people who are seriously ill or dying will legally have access to medical marijuana – not people who will turn around and sell drugs.

People voting NO on this law argue that:

- Legalizing a drug that has a detrimental effect on society will open the door to increased drug abuse, crime and the denigration of society.
- Legalizing medical marijuana is the first step toward complete legalization of marijuana, and eventually other drugs.
- Legalizing medical marijuana would make it easier for kids and residents who are not seriously or terminally ill to obtain and use marijuana.
- Since there is no way for law enforcement officials to regulate or measure the intake of marijuana, registered users who decide to drive under the influence would be a threat to public safety.