



Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research

March 6, 2014

Assembly Member Connie Conway
P.O. Box 942849, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 94249-0026

VIA FAX (916) 319-2126

RE: AB 1588 – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Conway,

I am writing in opposition to AB 1588, your bill that will require that legally organized and operated medical cannabis patients' associations be located at least 1,000 feet from schools and increase the fine for violations. This bill places an unnecessary burden on patient-operators; who must already cope with local regulations, federal interference, and bias against medical cannabis when seeking a location for a storefront facility to serve the members of their legal cooperative or collective association. The bill also usurps local authority to establish land use and zoning laws that are appropriate to the circumstances in each individual community.

There is no evidence that medical cannabis patients' cooperatives and collectives lead to an increase in crime or have a detrimental effect on students at schools. Research conducted by Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the nation's leading medical cannabis patients' advocacy organization, shows that sensible local regulations reduce crime and complaints around medical cannabis facilities. In fact, in our report entitled *Medical Cannabis Dispensing Collectives and Local Regulation* (updated 2011), Oakland City Administrator Barbara Kiley refers to the areas around regulated medical cannabis facilities as some of the safest in the city. You may read the entire report online at <http://tinyurl.com/DispensaryReport>

City Councils and Boards of Supervisors are best positioned to make decisions about the distance between a given land use and other uses, like schools. Existing law already requires that legal patients' cooperatives and collectives be located at least 600 feet from schools. There is no real benefit for students or communities in arbitrarily increasing this buffer zone by 400 feet. An additional rule like AB 1588 will simply further impinge on local land use authority and discretion.

I urge you to withdraw AB 1588 and work with medical cannabis patients to find a better way to preserve safe and dignified access to medical cannabis, while protect our communities. ASA would be happy to work with you and your staff to that end.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Duncan".

Don Duncan
California Director
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cc. Chairman Tom Ammiano, Assembly Committee on Public Safety

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General Information

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