



May 4, 2015

Assembly Member Mike Gipson
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0064

RE: AB 821 Sales tax and medical cannabis - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gipson:

Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the nation's leading medical cannabis patients advocacy organization, supports AB 821, which will exempt from sales tax the sale of, and the storage, use, or other consumption of, medical cannabis for use by a terminally ill patient. This is a reasonable bill that will help ease the burden of terminal patients and their families at a difficult time of life.

The trend of increasing sales and business license taxes on legal medical cannabis at the local level presents an ongoing burden for medical cannabis patients, who already pay state sales tax on their doctor-recommended medicine. Combined state sales tax and local tax on medical cannabis reaches as high as 24% in some jurisdictions. In addition to presenting a financial burden for low-income patients, these high taxes may be a disincentive to participate in legal regulated access programs.

Terminal illness can present a terrible burden, both emotionally and financially. AB 821 will provide needed relief to vulnerable medical cannabis patients at the end of their lives. Thank you for introducing this compassionate measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Duncan", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Don Duncan
California Director

cc. Assembly Member Phillip Y. Ting, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

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General Information

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