

June 23, 2015

Chairman Marc Levine  
California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 165 (Monning): Cannabis cultivation – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Levine,

Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the nation's leading medical cannabis patients' advocacy organization, opposes SB 165 (Monning). This bill will increase civil penalties for violations related to cannabis cultivation on public and private land. Unfortunately, the bill fails to adequately distinguish between legal cultivation of medical cannabis and illegal cultivation of cannabis. Furthermore, the bill does not specifically exempt property owners cultivating legal medical cannabis on their own property or tenants cultivating legal medical cannabis with the property owner's consent from increased penalties.

ASA strongly supports sensible regulations for medical cannabis cultivation that protect the welfare of patients, cultivators, and the community. To that end, medical cannabis cultivation should be regulated like other agricultural products, not saddled with unreasonable restrictions and penalties. It is unlikely that increasing fines will deter the handful of bad actors who trespass or cause environmental harm when cultivating cannabis. However, these increased penalties may adversely affect legal patients, caregivers, and cultivators.

ASA urges you to reject SB 165 and work with the Author and your other colleagues to find a more comprehensive and effective way to regulate commercial medical cannabis cultivation in California.

Thank you,



Don Duncan  
California Director

cc. Senator Bill Monning

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