

Testimony Supporting HB 2919
House Health Care Committee
April 8, 2013

Chairman Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members,

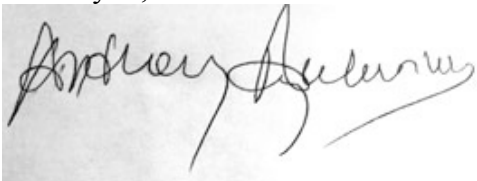
Thank you for hearing HB 2919. My name is Anthony Anzalone and I have practiced medicine for the last 27 years. Presently my office location is in Rutherford, New Jersey. Since the legislation of the cannabis program in New Jersey, I have been involved with it. After speaking with a native Oregon based research group professionalizing groups within their Medical Marijuana Program. I believe that their program and the resulting HB 2919, which includes scientific pursuit as well as the teaching of physicians throughout the country, could be a template for a legitimate alternative to conventional therapy. Conventional therapy currently administered for many medical conditions and pain management comes with many associated drug interactions, side effects and potential addictions.

Presently, I am working with researchers to establish a protocol for physicians to follow regarding medical cannabis education. This protocol is based on science, which is based on the evidence that currently exists and is being collected. Our goal is to enhance this knowledge throughout New Jersey using physician education and oversight and give structure to programs that varies from state to state. The Oregon program extended to New Jersey creates synchronized feedback for the growing data bank which future research will benefit. This information will then be used to assist physicians in decision making throughout the country in regards to a dose for medical condition, a strain for medical condition, and a side effect where applicable. The list goes on and on.

To exemplify the importance of HB 2919, New Jersey has one distribution center as of April 4, 2013, and has seen only 125 patients for the entire state. This is a sad commentary for which there are several thousand patients literally dying in the waiting process. This problem is largely due to the restraints that exist. If we could HB2919 the bill passed and other legislators like you to see the value in such a standard program, this could be adapted to other states rendering situations like the one that exists in New Jersey history.

If you have any further questions or discussions on this matter that you wish to address, I am available.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Anzalone", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Anthony Anzalone, MD