

Bill 2919

Since infancy headaches, vomiting, nausea and poor vision have dominated the physical aspect of my livelihood. As a happy and ambitious child I did not allow my physical limitations to hold me back from life's possibilities. This meant using a variety of different tools to achieve my daily goals. Even though there was success in making it through the pain, it was impossible to avoid days dominated by vomiting.

At twelve years old they found an inoperable brain tumor. The MRI showed the hypothalamic glioma, centered in my hypothalamus, wrapped around my optic nerves pressing against my pituitary gland. Consequence of the gliomas' location result in multiple deficiencies, bone deterioration, blindness and the reason behind the severe headaches and vomiting. Numerous medications, conventional and naturalistic approaches were applied trying to assist in controlling my vomiting and nausea as well as my other physical difficulties.

Acupuncture and meditation were helpful, yet on the days when it was impossible for me to stop vomiting my medications were ineffective because I was unable to keep them down long enough to receive the benefits. The final outcome would be a trip to Emergency. They would replace my fluids and control the vomiting through intervenes medication. When all was resolved I was exhausted, my throat torn and suffering from concern of what insurance would not cover, and what I would need to pay.

When I was in my early twenties and undergoing radiation and chemotherapy my trips to the hospital became more frequent due to my inability to harness the nausea and vomiting. Being the late nineteen nineties medical marijuana had just become legal, and was suggested to me as a way to control my vomiting. After a test trial, my trips to the hospital became less frequent.

During the last four years it has been necessary for me to undergo brain surgery and a session of tumor preventing drugs, similar to chemotherapy. There has been time spent in the hospital due to complications resulting from my tumor, little time has been spent there because of vomiting. The reason for this is my daily usage of medical marijuana. Since I have been using marijuana as a medication I have had great success in managing both my pain and my nausea and vomiting. Great success has been found for myself by using medical marijuana, and it is for this reason that I give my testimony.

It is of the utmost importance that more research be done on the effects of various plants for aiding in a diversity of ailments. With the passing of Bill 2919 you are allowing for the possibility of patients such as myself who can live a daily life because of the use of medical marijuana. For more information, that we as patients have, the better we can manage our individual needs. It is sensational that such an amazing solution can be found in such an organic medium. There is an opportunity here to allow each patient to know what they can use to relieve their particular situations.

On behalf of the patient such as myself, I plead for you to take serious consideration in passing Bill 2919. This bill allows for efficiency and information about our medication giving us the information we need to better assist ourselves. Thank you for your time and attention. I appreciate the opportunity to give my personal testimony.

Thank you and best wishes,
Melissa K. Hoffer

