

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Derrick Manning.

I am 47 years old, an OMMA patient, disabled, and homeless.

I am in need of four surgeries, one to each shoulder and one to each foot, to put me back into the workforce, and able to be a productive member of society.

Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration does not agree that I'm unable to work.

I have been medicating with cannabis, for pain and muscle spasms, for more than 25 years.

When I was 17, I exploded my right knee at Willamalane pool, in Springfield.

After 3 years of agonizing pain, I found cannabis.

It was the first thing I had found that would allow me to relieve most of my pain and relax the muscles in my knee while still letting me function at a normal, coherent level, in order to be able to work, provided I didn't over-medicate.

I was able to function this way, for 20 years, at numerous jobs. Not once getting injured, or causing injury. I have held several private security positions, including being responsible for over 200 officers.

I've been a welder, fabricator, cook, loss prevention agent, photocopier tech, and so on; none of which I could have been successful at, without cannabis.

I have had many injuries since 1987. 13 surgeries on my knees, wrists and feet, with at least 4 more to go.

Please don't take away one of the only ways I have of coping, both physically, and emotionally.

Because if the cost of a card cost increases, I won't be able to get medication, as I have no income to speak of.

Being in the position I'm in is very hard to take.

I want to work.

I have useful knowledge and abilities that I want to share with my 13 yr old son, and my community which I can't normally, due to my physical conditions.

But medicating allows me to do a little more.

Basically if fees increase any further, or experimentation for rec hurts the medical program any more, it will condemn me to pain in more than one way, both physically, as well as affecting my quality of life.

Please consider the repercussions of the higher costs.

Please lower costs, while increasing immature plant counts, without height limits.

Sincerely,

Derrick Manning

Springfield