



Montana Medical Grower's Association

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12. August 2010

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Montana Medical Growers Association has provided the attached recommendations and background information regarding some of the critical issues on the subject of medical marijuana facing the Children, Families, Health & Human Services Interim Sub-Committee.

The Work Group sanctioned by the Interim Committee included law enforcement, city officials and caregivers. Input was received from various State agencies in order to identify specific problem areas regarding medical marijuana. A review of these problem areas was then offered to the Committee for them to take a broad look at potential solutions.

The MMGA has taken those consensus recommendations from the Work Group and has developed proposals for your consideration. We believe that these proposals offer suggestions for legislation that is viable and practical as they take into consideration the intent of the work group, the input from local jurisdictions, and the concerns of the medical marijuana community and the public at large.

It is critical that any legislation be based on facts not rumors, misinformation or misunderstanding. Each State facing this issue is attempting to better understand what is in the best interest of the patient. Montana should only look at the guidelines used by other states when that state's practices are working. There are many states which have practical programs in place and many who do not. It is a slippery slope to develop a program for Montana utilizing bits and pieces from various states. It is necessary for the State of Montana to advance legislation that will, instead, serve as a guide for other states.

The format for this booklet outlines as follows: The problem or issue, a recommended solution or medical marijuana community view and the appropriate background material to support that recommendation. The purpose of the booklet is to provide an easy reference to the members of the Committee when the topics identified herein. It is our hope the Subcommittee will use this booklet when making their decision on the language and intent of future legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gingery".

Jim Gingery
Executive Director
Montana Medical Growers Association