

SAN PEDRO HEALTH

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Subject: Medical Marijuana

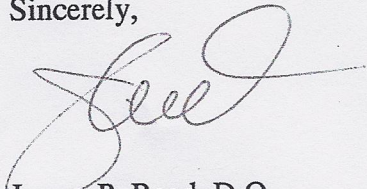
To Whom It May Concern:

As a psychiatrist I have a great objection to marijuana as it is presently made available illegally to the public. In my experience it has been laced with various other illegal drugs to alter its effect and I caution all my patients against its use. I also have concerns about it being an entry level drug of abuse.

However, I have witnessed that even its illegal use has some medical benefits in several situations. I have had only one exposure to a patient taking a prescribed form of cannabis and it benefitted him greatly. I would prefer that it be regulated and standardized for predictable benefit and side effect control. There have been several occasions, that if it had been available, I would have recommended that a patient had access to it for treatment of pain and severe nausea. If it were properly regulated it might be safer to use in many situations and reduce patient exposure to more harmful compounds such as opiates.

Outside of quality control my biggest concern for medical marijuana is for diversion. This is already an issue with other controlled prescriptions and will be with medical marijuana but this in no way should justify not making it available in the proper circumstances.

Sincerely,



James P. Reed, D.O.