



South Carolina Pharmacy Association

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Dear Chairman Danny Verdin,

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 34 states and jurisdictions have approved medical marijuana use in some capacity. The South Carolina Pharmacy Association acknowledges the prevalence of medical marijuana legislation across the country as well as the controversy of the proposed legislation, Senate Bill 366, Compassionate Care Act, here in our state. While we are *neutral* on the issue of approving medical marijuana, we maintain that any medicine or drug intended for medical use should have pharmacist oversight and involvement.

The Pharmacy Practice Act defines a drug or medicine as an article recognized as a drug in an official compendium or compendium supplement, and intended for the use in diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in humans or animals. Dispensing includes not only the transfer of one or more doses of drug by a pharmacist or other person permitted by law, but also includes review for drug interactions, potential adverse drug reactions and allergies and counseling on proper use. Additionally, the practice of pharmacy, as currently defined by the Pharmacy Practice Act, includes to interpret, evaluate, and dispense drug orders in the patient's best interest, among other acts.

Pharmacists have long been recognized as the medication expert, and are instrumental to improving and optimizing appropriate medication use. As such, every patient who uses a drug for medical purposes should have a relationship with a pharmacist in addition to other healthcare personnel. If marijuana is approved for medical use in the state of South Carolina, pharmacists must be involved.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Burridge, MSPS, CAE
CEO

Cc: Members of the Senate Medical Committee