

1 schedule, what they can pertain, but I do know it's
2 a safe drug that has medicinal use, so why -- why
3 is it an unsafe drug?

4 It just -- this is a book that I'm
5 going to go ahead and show everyone. I'm not going
6 to give this to you guys, but it's called Marijuana
7 Is Safer So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?
8 And I mean marijuana has never killed anyone. So
9 to call it a dangerous drug is really just insane,
10 and I'm here -- I just -- we've seen so much go on,
11 and we've lived a lot. You know, I started
12 drinking when I was 14 and have, I would say, you
13 know, done a lot of stupid stuff, and whenever you
14 smoke, you just don't do that. You know, you have
15 control over your life. You can, you know, go
16 about your daily business and, you know, do other
17 things, and you know, you feel you don't -- you
18 don't feel like you've lost control of your life.

19 It's, you know, not addictive. I mean
20 it's probably a little addictive just because it's
21 so good. I'm going to go ahead and say good.

22 So I would also like to address the
23 fact that it's not a gateway drug. Marijuana
24 prohibition is the gateway to other drugs because
25 we're saying that you can't -- you know, you can't

1 smoke this, so if we arrest someone for it, then
2 they have to go on probation. Then they have to
3 turn to drinking or turn to harder drugs to get it
4 out of your system faster because they're so
5 worried about being caught, you know. You know,
6 God forbid we smoke a harmless victimless drug.

7 So -- and then, you know, also, I'd
8 have to go and say whenever we send these kids --
9 kids can get it in schools. I know -- I know it's
10 being sold in schools. We are letting this happen
11 because we don't have an age limit on it. It's not
12 being, you know, regulated at all, so we're sending
13 kids, 16-year-old kids, to houses to buy -- to buy

14 these drugs, and then they're being, you know, in
15 the room with coke and heroin which are more
16 expensive, more addictive, and these are actually
17 harmful to society, and yet we're letting these
18 kids go buy their drugs -- you know, and yes, why
19 do kids have to have drugs? That's a good
20 question, but whenever they're so readily
21 available, you know, the temptation is there, and
22 people -- that's what they want.

23 It's going to happen. It's not going
24 to go away, just like alcohol when we -- you know,
25 when alcohol prohibition, it didn't go away.

1 People -- you know, how would you like it if, you
2 know, you're trying to buy your alcohol and it's
3 cut with something? You know, just can we imagine
4 living like that? I'm sure that you guys have had
5 some drinks in your life, and you know, you know
6 it's more harmful than marijuana, so if you --
7 okay. Slow down. This is who I am. I ramble.
8 I'm on these little side tracks of things because I
9 feel so strongly about the subject.

10 And I understand people need it for
11 medical purposes. You know, like, that's, I mean,
12 very important. I see it all the time. My
13 grandmother who took care of my grandpa for two
14 years while he laid on his death bed, and she took
15 care him, and he finally passed away, and she is
16 now 81 pounds, can't eat, can't sleep, depressed,
17 and I know -- I know if she could -- if someone
18 just could offer her and say "Hey, you know, if you
19 just smoke this" and -- you know, she would be
20 eating. She would be sleeping. She would feel so
21 much better and more active to do things with
22 her -- with friends, and that's all.

23 And so anyway -- and also there is a
24 healthy way to smoke it, you know, through a
25 vaporizer. It keeps -- I've heard that it keeps

1 the chemicals, the harmful chemicals, you know, in
2 there and just burns the THC, so it's not even --
3 like, there's no risk of lung cancer or anything,
4 so -- not that that was a thing anyway. So I'm
5 going to slow down. Here we go. Please hold the
6 laughter.

7 So I just -- I have so much to say and
8 like we -- I just -- I hate that, you know, we're
9 still arguing about this. It was all based upon a
10 lie. That's the thing. Harry Anslinger in, what,
11 1937 or something, he, you know, came up with this
12 lie. Marijuana is going to kill you, you know, if
13 you --

14 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Excuse me. Hello.

15 MELANIE DREHER: Hello. This is
16 Dr. Dreher from Rush University, and I'm calling
17 the Board of Pharmacy to give testimony regarding
18 the medical use of marijuana.

19 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Yes. This is
20 Susan Frey, the vice chairman of the board. We are
21 currently in the midst of a testimony, so could you
22 please hold on?

23 MELANIE DREHER: Of course.

24 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you.

25 MELANIE DREHER: You're welcome.

1 KAITLYN DONOVAN: Now I have to wrap
2 it up. So Harry Anslinger, he came up with this
3 lie that it kills people, that it makes you insane,
4 and so that's why we can't even have it anyway is
5 because of a lie, so how -- why can't someone just
6 stand up and say "Oh, sorry, we were wrong. That's
7 not what happens. Let's refigure this out. Let's
8 reclassify it."

9 And let's not classify to a
10 Schedule II because I think that's the wrong
11 classification anyway. I mean let's not re, like,
12 wrongly -- what's -- let's not reclassify it and
13 have it be wrong again and then two years later we
14 have to reclassify to a Schedule III and
15 Schedule IV. Let's just get it right this time,
16 schedule it at the right thing. Let's use all
17 kinds of studies that you can find.

18 People who just smoke it for
19 recreational use, I'm not talking about people --
20 potheads who smoked it, you know, from sun up to
21 sundown. I mean if that's what they want, they can
22 because they're probably not hurting anything, but
23 you know, saying for the adults who use it safely
24 on the -- you know, if they want to -- just like
25 adults can use alcohol safely and, you know, in the

1 Dr. Dreher, you may start your
2 comments at any time, and you will have ten
3 minutes.

4 MELANIE DREHER: Well, I actually
5 don't have ten minutes worth of remarks. I'm just
6 calling in to say that I have -- I'm a nurse, dean
7 of nursing at Rush University Medical Center and an
8 eptologist, and I have worked in Jamaica, West
9 Indies, for -- oh, almost 30 years doing research
10 on the -- the original medical use of cannabis or
11 ganja as it's called in Jamaica, marijuana as it's
12 called here.

13 And I have studied the -- this study
14 that we did with the -- an examination of the
15 chronic effects of marijuana use because at the
16 time that I started this study, which was in the
17 late -- actually early '70s, most of the research
18 to date has been done on the acute effects of
19 marijuana smoking, and there have been very little
20 done on the chronic effects, and there was a
21 movement funded by NIH at the time to really look
22 at cultures in which cannabis has been used over a
23 long period of time in which it had become part of
24 the culture, and Jamaica was particularly useful
25 because not only did it have the long-standing

1 privacy of their own home, people should have the
2 same rights, and we all need to be equal here and
3 just -- I mean we need to say it's less harmful.
4 It should be legalized, and more importantly it
5 should be researched for all kinds of medical use.
6 There we go. I'll wrap it up.

7 SARA PARKS: Thank you.
8 KAITLYN DONOVAN: Thank you.
9 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn.
10 Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn. can we
11 have --

12 KAITLYN DONOVAN: Yes.
13 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Could you give the

14 ~~book to the reporter so she can get the author on~~
15 that so that we could reference that for the other
16 board members?

17 KAITLYN DONOVAN: Sure. Yeah.
18 Actually, the author is from Marijuana Policy
19 Project Safer and NORML so --

20 (The authors of the book are Steve
21 Fox, Paul Armentano, and Mason Tvert.)

22 (Off-the-record discussion.)
23 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. And while
24 we're doing that, I think we'll go ahead with
25 Melanie Dreher who's on the telephone.

1 medical use, but it was also -- had taken on a
2 ritual use in the case of Rastafarianism.

3 And ganja, as you may know, is not
4 indigenous to Jamaica. It comes from India, and it
5 was brought in in the late 1880s with indentured
6 labor coming from India. Since that time, it has
7 become very widespread in Jamaica. It is
8 cultivated for medicine.

9 When I went to study it, it was
10 already -- already had several medical uses
11 starting from early childhood, even infancy and the
12 treatment of colic and the discomfort associated
13 with teething. Then it had been used
14 prophylactically by women who brewed tea, marijuana

15 tea or ganja tea, for their children to help them
16 to concentrate in school and to get them the sort
17 of energy that they needed for their five-mile
18 walks to school and so forth.

19 So it was considered not only a drug
20 of treatment but a drug of -- they wouldn't say a
21 drug but an herb of treatment and an herb of
22 prophylaxis in the sense of keeping children and
23 adults well as well as treating a variety of
24 complaints and maladies.

25 The first study was a study comparing

1 30 chronic users, and these were men who had used
2 marijuana every day of their lives for the past
3 10 years and 30 nonusers, and that study showed no
4 indication that there was any serious implications
5 or outcomes from routine daily marijuana use.

6 Subsequently I went on to look at --
7 and this was sort of in the light of the solidified
8 incident in the '70s and to look at the perigenic
9 effects of marijuana use during pregnancy. And
10 again, they used the same research strategy. We
11 recruited 30 women in their first trimester who
12 were chronic marijuana users, and we matched them
13 with 30 women who were not users, according to age,
14 sex, and parity, and took a look at their
15 offspring, and we used a pretty standard neonatal
16 assessment scale that is used in this country to
17 test the psychoneurological dimensions of
18 development and actually, at three days found no
19 differences between the exposed group and the
20 nonexposed group.

21 At one month, we found that the --
22 actually the exposed babies did significantly
23 better in all dimensions of the Brazelton scale
24 than the nonexposed babies and significantly in a
25 couple of them. Those results were published in

1 Pediatrics, I think about 1994.

2 By that time, some women, particularly
3 Rastafarian women, had been -- were being exposed
4 to marijuana because they had begun -- more women
5 had begun to smoke. When I first went to Jamaica
6 all those years ago, it was basically men who were
7 smoking. Women were drinking the tea. I think
8 that has changed a little bit but not much. I
9 think it's predominantly tea -- tea drinking as a
10 familial medicinal use of marijuana in Jamaica
11 whereas smoking tends to be used more in the ritual
12 way -- in the ritual context, although several
13 people have reported -- many people have reported

14 using inhalation of cannabis for the treatment of
15 asthma in particular or any kind of pulmonary
16 complaints, both adults and children who had -- oh,
17 upper respiratory infections and that sort of
18 thing.

19 The -- I think the -- it's important
20 to say that there is a culture for cannabis in
21 Jamaica. There are rules about who should use it
22 and when and the context in which it is used, and I
23 think probably it would be difficult to find a
24 Jamaican today who would consider cannabis as a
25 drug in that sense. They would consider it a -- in

1 the sense that we know it, as a recreational drug.
2 They would consider it a medicine, an
3 herbal medicine, a natural medicine that has both
4 spiritual components to it in the sense of
5 facilitating a communion, which is the ritual used
6 in Rastafarians in communing with each other and
7 with a God, and then of course the medicinal use
8 which has many, many, many properties and -- and
9 dimensions.

10 And it's used in many forms,
11 inhalation, tea, tonics that are prepared with
12 white rum, but it's commonplace. It's oral
13 tradition, and it's passed down from mother to
14 daughter and then to her daughters as part of the
15 sort of household pharmacopeia.

16 So I would be -- I would be happy to
17 answer any questions you may have about this
18 substance.

19 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Oh, okay. This is
20 Susan. When you talk about it being in the -- in a
21 ritual, are you talking about a specific set
22 ritual, or is that more of an individual process?
23 What --

24 MELANIE DREHER: Well, a ritual in the
25 sense of -- I suppose you have to understand a

1 little bit about the Rastafarian religion. It's a
2 male-dominated religion, and when men conveñe,
3 it's -- it actually started in the 1920s in Jamaica
4 where somewhat disenfranchised men, laborers
5 primarily, were to sit together in their Kingston
6 yards and talk about life and religion and reason.

7 And at that time there was a man
8 who -- named Marcus Garvey who used to come around
9 to all the yards and preach, and he talked about
10 the recreation of all black men to Ethiopia, and
11 that was the origin of the Rastafarian religion,
12 and -- so that these men who sat in their yards
13 smoking made the connection "All right. This is

14 our ritual. This is our communication with God"
15 just as the -- just as wide as in the Catholic
16 church.

17 So they made that analogy of using --
18 smoking marijuana as the -- as -- comparing that to
19 the use of wine in the Catholic church, and it does
20 certainly enhance their spiritual communication
21 with each other.

22 And so is it -- does it take place in
23 a certain -- you know, at the altar or anything
24 like that? No. It's a much more naturalized
25 religion and takes place wherever men come together

1 to talk about important things in life.

2 BOARD MEMBER FREY: I was just asking
3 for clarification because I guess, you know, that
4 aspect would not pertain to our discussion so --
5 but on the female side, you're saying then that
6 they are the ones that use it as more medicinal?

7 MELANIE DREHER: The women are the
8 preparers of the medicine but in the sense -- in
9 the sense that it is a sacred -- considered a
10 sacred substance. It does have a connection to
11 medicine in that regard.

12 So then the women are the ones who
13 actually are the preparers and administrators of
14 marijuana medicine in Jamaica.

15 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. Thank you.

16 MELANIE DREHER: You're welcome. I'm
17 sorry for that long-winded explanation.

18 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Do you have any
19 questions?

20 BOARD MEMBER MAIER: No.

21 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Yes.

22 ROBERT MANKE: Please ask her about
23 comparative Apgar scores between the exposed
24 pregnant mommies and the neonates that came from
25 those pregnancies and the nonexposed pregnant

1 there a reason that you -- that was given for the
2 women using their tea? Were they using it for,
3 like, say, for instance, amenorrhea or was there,
4 you know, some specific reason that they used it on
5 a long permanent basis?

6 MELANIE DREHER: Well, the
7 monthly-using women, there were a variety of
8 women -- of reasons. A few women who used it in a
9 manner not unlike a man used it. They used it --
10 they were primarily of Rastafarian persuasion.
11 They used it ritually, occasionally recreationally.

12 But the -- the other end of the
13 30 women were a number of women who used it
14 medicinally, specifically medicinally, and mainly
15 for the nausea associated with pregnancy, also with
16 the insomnia of pregnancy and with the -- what they
17 would describe as the lack of energy that they had
18 when they were pregnant.

19 So it would seem that the exposed
20 babies actually made -- not significantly so, but
21 they weighed a little more than the nonexposed
22 babies, and when I mentioned this to some of the
23 mothers, they said "Well, of course, because we eat
24 more," and I think that is very true. They had
25 better appetites and were able to control the

1 mommies, what their Apgar scores were compared to
2 the mommies who smoked pot.

3 BOARD MEMBER FREY: We have a question
4 from the audience that would like you to comment
5 on -- in your research to comment on the Apgar
6 numbers, Apgar ratings on exposed versus nonexposed
7 infants.

8 MELANIE DREHER: The Apgar ratings,
9 both the exposed and unexposed infants, were not as
10 high as you would find in this culture. It is not
11 unusual at all, especially 20 years ago, to have an
12 Apgar rating of seven, eight, or nine. So the -- I
13 would -- there were no differences in the Apgars
14 between the exposed babies and the nonexposed

15 babies.

16 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. Yes.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Was there any --
18 any sort of reasons that the women were taking the
19 tea medicinally? Was it for menorrhagia or
20 menorrhagia, or was it specifically women's issues?
21 Was it for decreasing stress or to help them focus
22 on their daily tasks? Is there any indication in
23 that research of what they were taking the tea for?

24 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. Another
25 question from the audience is in the studies, was

1 typical nausea associated with pregnancy in the
2 early stages.

3 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. I think
4 that is -- do you have any other comments?

5 MELANIE DREHER: No. I think that --
6 you know, people ask me all the time whether I
7 think marijuana should be legalized, and I have
8 been of the opinion for a long time that this is --
9 this is much ado about nothing. It is -- compared
10 to tobacco and compared to alcohol, this is such a
11 benign substance.

12 It does not seem to make a difference
13 in either the health or the productivity of people
14 in Jamaica. It seems to make no difference in

15 terms of exposure during pregnancy. And then the
16 specific element, because we looked at these
17 children, again, at age five, both groups of
18 children, and could find absolutely nothing that
19 linked their development with their exposure during
20 pregnancy.

21 And I -- I certainly believe that and
22 would strongly support the decriminalization of
23 cannabis, and now -- now that we understand about
24 the endocannabinoid system that this is documented.
25 It's researched. Probably couldn't have been done

1 in this country.
 2 Now that we have a knowledge of why
 3 cannabis is a good medicine, something that
 4 Jamaicans have known for years, I think it's time
 5 to seriously revisit this product, to understand
 6 and be able to dispense it as a medicine legally
 7 and -- and to decriminalize the other uses of -- of
 8 marijuana.

9 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you very
 10 much for calling in.

11 MELANIE DREHER: You're very welcome.
 12 Thank you.

13 BOARD MEMBER FREY: And I think that
 14 brings us to Speaker No. 8.

15 ROBERT MANKE: Hi. I'm Bob Manke, and
 16 what a privilege it is to come on after Dean
 17 Dreher. Wow. Does it sink in to you that what she
 18 told you was that the most trusting, vulnerable
 19 members of society, a little fetus in mommy's womb,
 20 is not harmed by smoking cannabis. Believe me,
 21 that's what she's telling you. That's exactly what
 22 she's telling you. There's no harm to a fetus in a
 23 mommy who smokes pot. Zip. Her Apgar scores
 24 proved it, and they have suppressed her evidence
 25 again and again and again, and this is a highly

1 hospital in Des Moines and was so for years. She's
 2 retired now.

3 She very professionally watched me,
 4 and she saw my use of this particular one right
 5 here, this is oxycodones. Okay? This is an active
 6 script for me right now. It was just filled just a
 7 few days ago, 10-22. Okay? This is active drugs.
 8 I almost would have not touched that jar. In the
 9 two months that I was there, I almost wouldn't have
 10 touched it. And she saw that, and it changed her
 11 mind what she saw. She saw objective data for this
 12 nurse, and this is a woman who would jail you for
 13 smoking pot. Trust me, she definitely would do
 14 this kind of stuff. She's not happy with people
 15 who break the law. But she saw something there
 16 that changed her heart.

17 About a month ago -- now about two
 18 months ago, she had a major stomach surgery, and in
 19 the course of that preop, I had serious discussions
 20 as her husband with the surgeon on options, you
 21 know, and he met me. He talked with me very
 22 seriously for about 15 minutes.

23 After the surgery approximately three
 24 weeks postop, Nancy went in and was conferring with
 25 her surgeon, and he told her that he saw me on TV

1 professional woman. I am thoroughly honored to be
 2 on the podium anywhere even close to her.

3 Folks, I'd like to show you something
 4 here. This is what I talked about a little bit ago
 5 about having for evidence. This is an OMMA card,
 6 Oregon Medical Marijuana Act card, and this means
 7 that Bob Manke is legal as I speak to possess a
 8 pound and a half of pot. Can grow six plants to
 9 any height that I want. I can have 12 simultaneous
 10 plants that are nonflowered in the house also.

11 Listed on here is my caregiver and my
 12 grower and myself, and right now waiting on me in
 13 Oregon is a half pound of high-grade trinity nug,

14 and if I wanted to go out and smoke that, this says
 15 I can do it. The federal government says they're
 16 not going to bother me for that. Folks, I need
 17 that here. This is my home.

18 In February or March of this year, I
 19 was out in Oregon to visit my mother who's dying of
 20 cancer, and my wife went with me. In that period
 21 of time, she was able to observe me become a legal
 22 cannabis user and actually use cannabis in front of
 23 her, which is exactly what happened. She is a
 24 highly professional gerontology nurse. She became
 25 the third shift relief supervisor for the federal

1 at this meeting in Des Moines, and he was very
 2 interested in this, and she had a change of heart,
 3 folks. He asked her what did she think? And she
 4 told him about what happened in Oregon to me right
 5 in front of her, objective data, and she had a
 6 change of heart. This is wonderful.

7 Okay. I want to mention a few things
 8 about me. I am a nursing assistant. I've been --
 9 I've worked in two different hospitals, three
 10 nursing homes here in Iowa. I was promoted from an
 11 NA 2 to an NA 3 in the federal hospital. And
 12 nursing assistant work is not for everybody. It's
 13 not. I've had you name it all over my shoes, and

14 I'm telling you right now, I loved what I did. And
 15 it's too bad that I'm so hurt because I wanted to
 16 go back so bad for this.

17 I mentioned the last time,
 18 particularly the first time that I saw you in
 19 Des Moines, that my grandmother taught me
 20 herbology, and this was a conversation in which she
 21 taught me in 1965 about thistles and dandelions and
 22 things like that, and growing up against the side
 23 of the house was an indigenous Iowa marijuana
 24 plant. She didn't plant it. It just grew there by
 25 itself. It's Iowa. And she told me, and I'll

1 remember this forever. That is for women troubles,
2 migraines, and the pukes. You make a tea out of
3 it.

4 I want to take us to 1964 now. And in
5 1964 my mother worked as a nursing assistant also.
6 I was just a kid. And she came home one day and
7 told me -- she was pretty shook up. She saw in
8 this nursing home a room on the third floor, and
9 this will not make you proud to be an American when
10 you hear this. That room was divided in half with
11 chicken wire, and built into that room was a door
12 also made out of chicken wire and probably
13 two-by-twos. It was a crude thing.

14 Behind that door was an oak plank with
15 holes about this big around, and leather straps
16 were on this God-awful thing. Okay? If you were a
17 bad patient -- okay? -- who's going to decide that
18 if not the help? -- you were forced up to this
19 room, and you were sat on this God-awful thing and
20 strapped to this board until they decided you'd
21 calmed down. Can you imagine the decubitus such an
22 ugly thing would cause?

23 Okay. Let that -- let that just sit
24 in your mind a minute because we don't do that
25 anymore. Medical protocol and laws have changed.

1 enslaving us to this day.

2 That horrible thing was intensified by
3 Richard Nixon, I might add. And I'm just going to
4 ask you, when will you take these awful straps off
5 of me? My butt is sore, and I'm in constant pain
6 and fear because I am compelled to still be inside
7 this awful fraud of a picture. When will you take
8 the straps off of me? When can I be free to obey
9 my grandmother's good advice?

10 Folks, it's so bad, over
11 850,000 people were arrested, detained, jailed,
12 probated, imprisoned, fined in the last 12 months.
13 We incarcerate more people for pot here in America
14 than Europe with over 100 million more people do
15 for all drugs, all their crimes. When will you
16 turn this snapshot into an honest protocol?

17 We rely on you. We need you to do
18 this. You're really important to us. I know that
19 you've got real responsibility in front of you.
20 I'm going to give you a Bible verse now because I
21 really do understand this. Romans 14:22, blessed
22 is he who does not condemn himself for what he has
23 approved. There's a weight on you to really do the
24 right thing. Believe me, I know that.

25 And there is danger in what you do

1 We recognize the inherent cruelty and the
2 destruction of such a behavior as a part of our
3 medical history here in Iowa. We've changed that.
4 Okay? That snapshot has kind of gone away. We
5 have process. All right?

6 I want to take us back a little
7 farther in time now to 1937. And marijuana drug
8 laws were forming a snapshot, and you remember the
9 Iowa City art student who showed us the picture of
10 that marijuana drug dealer, and he had a needle
11 that looked like it was about this long, and he was
12 putting it into a white woman's arm, and marijuana
13 was supposed to be in that? Well, that's another
14 snapshot, and that's a piece of our nation's

15 history.
16 Those -- those horrible
17 disinformations that were spread to us were made by
18 a bunch of people who entered our federal
19 government with the purpose not of serving us but
20 of serving themselves, and what did they serve
21 themselves with? They served themselves with lust
22 of power over other people, and they got paid.
23 They got a federal pension, and to this day that
24 snapshot is still with us right now, and it's got
25 to be changed, folks, because that snapshot is

1 because of the LD50 of these horrible drugs that
2 you have. They kill people.

3 In 1998 my daughter was murdered here
4 in Council Bluffs. I didn't want to come to this
5 city, believe me. She died alone in a bathroom of
6 a drug overdose that the State of Iowa forced on
7 her. Go see Manke v. Iowa. Believe me, they were
8 hot with it. They shouldn't have been giving her
9 that awful crap.

10 If you think that I could appear in
11 front of you people and suggest another drug for
12 you that could possibly do this evil shit to
13 somebody else, almighty God forbid my mouth ever be
14 born into this world. I truly believe that this is

15 safe. The LD50 of marijuana is incredibly safe.
16 It's just south of fresh air. Melanie Dreher just
17 got on the phone and told you it can't hurt babies
18 in mommies' bellies. How much more benign can
19 something get?

20 I'm going to tell you that for me as a
21 pain patient that marijuana fits a kind of a
22 missing link between NSAIDs and opiates. Okay?
23 Like NSAIDs, it's not addictive, but it's more
24 powerful at pain control.

25 Now, we pain patients have something

1 that we call break-through pain. God help us.
2 That's just no fun at all, and I've had it happen
3 so many times. That's why I showed you that box of
4 Fentanyl tabs. And what does the Fentanyl do when
5 I have a break-through pain that goes past this
6 stuff? Well, it doesn't make me drunk. It knocks
7 me out.

8 That's what the morphine did for three
9 days at a crack until I made them stop. I've had
10 morphine psychosis, folks. The second week of coma
11 that I had in Iowa City, believe me, this is the
12 time. I thought that I'd been kidnapped by fake
13 nursing assistants and fake nurses, and if I looked
14 really hard at the nursing -- at the medical
15 equipment, I could see that it was made out of
16 cardboard boxes and Christmas tree lights. I could
17 see the ceiling tiles. They had blue LEDs in them,
18 and they would wink at me. Oh, yeah, folks. I was
19 gone.

20 And how gone was I? In the middle of
21 the night soaked with sweat, I would be leaning up
22 in the bed at a 45 degree angle. God have mercy.
23 I have a broken spine. I can't do that. And I'd
24 be tearing the IVs out of my arm, and that's when I
25 realized, "Oh, my God, I've just flipped out" and

1 stopped myself.

2 Folks, if we had been able to give Bob
3 Manke cannabis right there, we could have cut back
4 this opiate use. We would have calmed me down. I
5 wouldn't have had the psychosis. I just truly
6 believe this. This stuff has medicinal value in
7 our hospitals, in our pain clinics.

8 I want to use my dad eyes for just a
9 minute and imagine -- thank you -- and imagine a
10 nursing home that doesn't have to rely on SSRIs,
11 which are the most addictive drug on the face of
12 this planet. They're very dangerous. SSRIs are
13 very dangerous drugs. Imagine a nursing home in

14 the future where Mom and Dad don't have to take
15 some big dose of opiates or a big dose of SSRIs.
16 No, they're not sitting around smoking the bong.
17 You eat this stuff. Okay?

18 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Let's please wrap
19 it up.

20 ROBERT MANKE: Okay? Yes. And I'm
21 telling you it's safe, folks. My mom would never
22 take pot in any form. I'm sorry. She's been
23 indoctrinated. It's a done deal but -- and that's
24 too bad because she's dying of cancer, and it could
25 do her some good. Okay?

1 When will you folks help us turn this
2 snapshot of marijuana users having this long needle
3 coming in white women's arms? Oh, my God, what an
4 ugly picture. You've got a burden on you. I
5 understand that. I really do. Dr. Melanie
6 Dreher --

7 BOARD MEMBER FREY: I need you to wrap
8 it up Mr. Manke, please.

9 ROBERT MANKE: Yes, I will.
10 Dr. Dreher brings forward that mummies in all three
11 trimesters of pregnancy can safely smoke cannabis.
12 When will you take my straps off? When will you
13 let my people go? Thank you. God bless your Army.

14 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you.

15 ROBERT MANKE: I'd like to let you
16 have a copy of this, but I'd like to get that back.
17 That is a legal document.

18 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Would you give
19 that to Terry, please?

20 ROBERT MANKE: Sure.

21 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you.

22 ROBERT MANKE: Thank you.

23 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Okay. Speaker'
24 No. 9. Terry, do we have a Speaker No. 9? I'm not
25 seeing Speaker No. 9. We'll go to Speaker No. 10.

1 GEORGE McMAHON: Well, I've been to
2 all four hearings, and I've stayed as long as I
3 could and listened to everything I could, and my
4 intent was -- from the beginning was to get you
5 guys the evidence that I think you wanted and I
6 hope you wanted.

7 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Would you please
8 state your name.

9 GEORGE McMAHON: Oh, I'm George
10 McMahon. And I think we've managed that. I think
11 you have a good case. And I would like then to
12 tell the story that I think all of you are
13 probably -- all the pharmacists here are probably

14 familiar with, perhaps in the little bit different
15 circumstance, and that's the patient -- another
16 patient's story, not my own.

17 We'll say G. J., north central Iowa,
18 called last night. A mother, a lady in her 50s
19 recently let go from a job she'd had five years
20 because of health reasons which she got because she
21 was released from a 20-year job just prior to
22 starting that one for health reasons. Twice for
23 health reasons.

24 She's still getting the same treatment
25 from the doctors. And it hasn't helped. She's

1 just been recently involved in a month stay in the
2 hospital and I think two or three near-death
3 experiences. And I'm pretty sure that I've stood
4 at the counter and heard pharmacists help patients
5 one after another. Not every -- every line, but
6 you know, when I go in and my friend says to Joe,
7 "Hey, Joe, these pills are \$28. And I know you
8 only got seven."

9 "Oh, yeah. You know what? So-and-so
10 returned some the other day," and I watched him
11 walk right back to the drug counter and count them
12 out of the new bin and hand them to Joe. I've seen
13 that more times than I can count, so I think we've
14 got you on our side. We've given you the evidence.
15 I hope you see it the same way we do.

16 I'm pretty sure you're familiar with
17 those stories, and anybody I know that is is on our
18 side, and we think things will be better with your
19 help. We think we've furnished the evidence to you
20 now that, you know, it's not a chance -- you don't
21 have to go look by chance and see what was credible
22 and what wasn't credible or what was replicable,
23 what studies were actually done in the correct
24 ways. They're there. You can read them. You can
25 see how they were done, and they're in the terms

1 of Iowa and in the United States.

2 I may look like your typical 1960s
3 stoner, but I'm not. My faith is why I look the
4 way that I do. I'm of Hebrew descent. I'm of the
5 House of Ruben. That's why I wear red. I have a
6 brother whose name is Judah, and he currently kind
7 of runs the entire world economic system, and I'm
8 really upset about that, but you know, he's my
9 little brother, and you know, he pulls a little
10 more weight than I do. All I can do is stand up
11 here and tell my story.

12 I've had Meniere's for ten years.
13 Meniere's is nothing that you would wish on your
14 worst enemy. When I first had symptoms of it, I
15 thought I was drunk. But I knew that couldn't be
16 because I'd quit drinking ten years before that.
17 But yet it gave me this dizziness. It gave me this
18 nausea. It completely incapacitated me.

19 And it was probably five years into
20 having those symptoms, into having vertigo, into
21 falling down on the floor and screaming like a
22 nine-year-old little girl and puking for hours and
23 hours and hours that almost drove me insane.

24 I've suffered this and survived this
25 raising three children by myself, holding down a

1 and the terminology that you'll understand. Maybe
2 a lot of us in the audience wouldn't.

3 And then when you add to that your
4 human feature, and I mean that all of us got a
5 pretty tied-together future. When you add to that
6 that you are people that are trying to help other
7 people, we thank you for your diligence. Thank
8 you.

9 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you. I'll
10 back up. Is Speaker No. 9 in the room? Okay. Do
11 we have any others, Terry? Speaker 11 then.

12 JOHN Q. CUSTOMER: My name is John Q.
13 Customer. I have read that if a person didn't come
14 down here and tell why they needed medical

15 marijuana that if it was passed, my condition
16 wouldn't be included. Of the ones that I know of,
17 glaucoma, I don't have. Radiation, I don't get
18 that because I don't have cancer, but I have what's
19 called Meniere's disease. And it has taken away
20 the hearing in my left ear. It has severed the
21 balance nerve on my left side, so if you see me
22 kind of wobble, I'm not a weeble. I just wobble.

23 If I don't tell you what this medical
24 marijuana does for me and you don't include it,
25 then I will continue to be a criminal in the State

1 job, not knowing then, because I didn't go to a
2 doctor until I was probably six years into it, and
3 my children got to watch me laying on the kitchen
4 floor when it was time to be going to school
5 incapacitated, unable to get up off the floor. And
6 thank goodness they were good kids. They are to
7 this day. They were very adult even at very young
8 ages.

9 They maintained the status quo and got
10 their own butts dressed, got their own butts fed,
11 and got off to school while they just stepped over
12 me on the kitchen floor because if you do see me
13 fall down and scream like a little girl and start
14 puking, there's absolutely nothing you can do.

15 There's absolutely nothing I can do.

16 There was nothing I could do until a
17 year ago in December, almost a year ago in
18 December. I have a friend that I went to high
19 school with who is surviving -- I can't tell you
20 right now -- a form of lymph node cancer, and he
21 has to go in for chemotherapy every six weeks for
22 the rest of his life. I'm 53. He's 55. So you
23 can imagine what his life is like.

24 And last December I was up at his
25 house, and we were visiting, and he's known that

1 I've had this for quite a while, and he's only been
2 surviving cancer now for two years, and as we were
3 talking, he asked me, he says "Well, you know,
4 you're a stoner from way back. Why don't you just,
5 you know, take a little toke." Yeah, right. Like,
6 you know, I'm laying on the ground puking my guts
7 out. The first thing I'm thinking is light up.
8 No. That's the farthest thing from my mind. I had
9 quit smoking years ago because I had a family to
10 raise. I was stuck with three little kids.

11 And he had told me with his chemo that
12 when he would get so sick that none of the pain
13 medication or the medication for the chemo would
14 help him with the nausea, a friend at the cancer
15 center turned him on to medical cannabis. And I
16 just kind of laughed at him. "Gee, you're out of
17 your mind, dude."

18 "No. I'm telling you. It's true."

19 "Well, I don't know where I would get
20 any. I wouldn't even begin to know."

21 "Well, here, friend. Have some." So
22 I had it next to my bed and thought, you know what?
23 I'll give it a try, but that's the last thing I can
24 think of while I'm on the floor puking or even
25 getting ready to puke.

1 But sure enough, one Saturday
2 afternoon I was kicked back listening to the radio,
3 and all of a sudden, the room started spinning, and
4 I started feeling in the pit of my stomach like,
5 oh, no. I'm in big trouble real fast. Not only
6 real fast but, like, right now. If I don't get to
7 the foot of my bed and get my puke bowl, I'm going
8 to be puking all over the floor.

9 I made it to the side of the bed. I
10 got ahold of the puke bowl, and just as I got ahold
11 of the puke bowl and was headed for the end of the
12 bed, I seen on my nightstand this marijuana that my
13 friend had given me. I hadn't smoked for years.

14 And I thought, you know what? I'm not going to go
15 through this again. I'm going to try something.

16 So I lit it up. I got three puffs out
17 of it. And I don't think I even got the exhale
18 out, and I was at the foot of the bed, and I was
19 just starting to ralph like you wouldn't believe,
20 and after the third time I ralphed, it was over.
21 No nausea, no spinning, no vertigo, nothing. I
22 didn't even feel high. I was very thankful. I was
23 already on my knees. I was very thankful and I
24 verbalized it.

25 But I thought, well, maybe it was my

1 prayers. Maybe it wasn't the marijuana. I mean
2 that just -- it seems too incredible. It seems way
3 too incredible. I'll thank the Almighty for, you
4 know, taking it away but maybe next time. We'll
5 see what happens.

6 Well, next time was only a couple
7 weeks later when like a dumb idiot I had a banana,
8 and I was told by my doctor right across the river
9 "Don't eat any ripe fruit." Okay. Well, I made
10 that mistake eating a ripe cantaloupe. Next day I
11 was puking my guts out.

12 Well, this particular day -- it was
13 again on a Saturday -- I wanted a banana for
14 breakfast. And after I bit the tip off, my mind is
15 telling me, dude, spit that out. No. I want it.
16 I haven't had a banana in forever. I'll just have
17 the tip. Well, it was overripe, and it tasted
18 really good, and I thought I'll be okay. It's just
19 one bite.

20 The next morning, 7 o'clock, I was
21 awakened in my sleep because I was dizzy. Made it
22 to the bathroom. By the time I got back to my
23 room, I knew I was in trouble. I grabbed my bowl,
24 and I hit the foot of the bed, and I started puking
25 at 7:30. I did not get done until 10 o'clock that

1 night. All day every moment of all those hours I
2 was ralphing. The only thing I could do was drink
3 water just so I had something to ralph.

4 This is from an ear disease called
5 Meniere's that they don't know what causes it, and
6 they don't know what to do to cure it. There is
7 nothing they can do. So they offered absolutely no
8 help whatsoever.

9 For nine years I suffered with this,
10 and the only option they gave me was look at your
11 sodium level and make sure that you try and keep
12 your sodium intake below a thousand milligrams a
13 day.

14 All right. It doesn't look like too
15 many people in here are calorie counters, but if
16 you count calories, you can also see sodium just
17 about matches. A thousand milligrams of sodium a
18 day, folks, that's eating fresh fruits and
19 vegetables. I got a perfect home. I can go to
20 Subway, and I can eat a Subway sandwich, but I dare
21 not eat anything else for a couple of days because
22 it will build up. That salt, that sodium, that
23 attracts water. My ear grabs that salt, that
24 sodium, and grabs that water, and boom, the next
25 thing I know, I'm on the ground screaming like a

1 little girl puking my guts out.
 2 Since last December, I have had six
 3 major attacks that were thwarted within the first
 4 three puffs on a marijuana cigarette. Nine years,
 5 folks, I suffered. Nine years trying to raise
 6 three children alone, trying to hold down a job,
 7 and what did the medical professional people give
 8 me? Nothing. Not even hope. "There's nothing we
 9 can do for you. Just watch your sodium intake."

10 Well, I watch my sodium intake, but
 11 you know what? It still doesn't help because out
 12 of the clear blue sky in the middle of the night, I
 13 can be awakened in a full-blown Meniere's attack.
 14 I see two of you. And the room is spinning like
 15 you wouldn't believe. And I scream like a little
 16 girl, and I start puking my guts out.

17 Even after it started, taking two to
 18 three puffs off of a marijuana cigarette, and it's
 19 done. It's over. It's stopped. I can function.
 20 I can feel it in my head still spinning, but it's
 21 not affecting my eyes. It's not affecting my
 22 balance. I can function. I can get up. I can
 23 walk without falling over. No nausea, no puking.
 24 It's all done. And so am I. Thank you.

25 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Thank you.

1 cannabinoids in the THC reduce the swelling, and --
 2 and I didn't have as much problem and the pain,
 3 just didn't have as much pain.

4 And I moved back to Iowa closer to my
 5 family, and now I don't have access to medical
 6 marijuana and -- which my symptoms actually have
 7 started to flare up again. Thanks.

8 And what I wanted to come here today
 9 and talk about was the fact that -- I don't know.
 10 Pharmaceutical drugs like Marinol and there's --
 11 what else is there? There's Ibuprofen has, like, a
 12 chance to kill you, and aspirin will kill you, and
 13 I know a bunch of people with that -- that had
 14 surgery on their shoulder for, I think -- one of
 15 them had a tumor in their shoulder, and another one
 16 has -- I don't know -- some kind of cancer in her
 17 shoulder, and they've had surgeries on them, and
 18 they seem to flare back up.

19 And they give them all sorts of, like,
 20 Vicodin and Percocet, I think. I don't know. I
 21 mean really hard-core drugs that are just crazy out
 22 there which they -- you could actually die from
 23 that kind of stuff, and -- and I don't know. I
 24 talked to them about getting the medical marijuana
 25 license, and they got one, and they seem to be

1 Okay. We have no other speakers that
 2 have signed in. I will go back to the beginning of
 3 the list to see if any of those people are here
 4 now. Shane Prokop? Brenda Peterson or Steve
 5 Gooch? Okay. With that, we will wait until we
 6 have another speaker.

7 (Short recess.)

8 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Excuse me. Our
 9 6 o'clock speaker is here. Kevin Sawyer.

10 KEVIN SAWYER: Hello.

11 BOARD MEMBER FREY: Hi there. If you
 12 would, at least give your first name and, if you
 13 wish, where you're from.

14 KEVIN SAWYER: Okay. All right.

15 Yeah. My name is Kevin Sawyer. I live here in
 16 Iowa now. For the last 20 years, I was living in
 17 California where I had a medical marijuana license
 18 for -- I don't know. I had some kind of a colon
 19 problem that causes internal and external
 20 hemorrhoids and stuff. I thought it was IBS. I
 21 thought it was colon cancer. And they -- I don't
 22 know.

23 I was prescribed a medical marijuana
 24 license, and then since then, my -- my symptoms --
 25 I don't know. From what the doctor told me, the

1 doing pretty good with that. I don't know. I just
 2 kind of left my paperwork so -- oops.

3 Okay. So anyway, the benefits and
 4 effects of marijuana in treating a number of
 5 diseases like glaucoma, insomnia, anxiety, panic
 6 attacks, depression, rheumatism, gastrointestinal
 7 dysfunctions, ulcer, cholera, cancer, epilepsy,
 8 bronchitis, and asthma. Those can all be treated
 9 with medical marijuana which is a safer drug than
 10 most of the -- all of the drugs that the
 11 pharmaceuticals are just giving out.

12 It's, like, seems like the -- the -- I
 13 don't know. The physicians are, like, heavily
 14 giving the pharmaceuticals to people just because
 15 they make profit off of it somehow. I don't know.

16 And there's, like, all sorts of uses
 17 for marijuana. It helps anything from -- I don't
 18 know. Just from swelling and in your joints and in
 19 your bones and in your muscles, and there's really
 20 no side effects from that either. Okay? You might
 21 have a side effect. You might get happy. You
 22 might get tired. You might get hungry. You're not
 23 supposed to drive a car on it, but then again,
 24 you're not supposed to drive on Vicodin, which I'm
 25 sure people do that all the time.