

1 and soon after I started taking the maximum dose of
2 Tylenol, my doctor asked me to please stop because
3 my liver enzymes were dangerously high.

4 I then switched to Ibuprofen, and it
5 caused so much stomach problems on top of the
6 nausea and diarrhea that I already had that I had
7 to stop using the Ibuprofen as well.

8 Other pain medicines such as opiates
9 were never recommended or offered, and I thank God
10 for that because I would not have wanted to go
11 through what I've heard other people go through
12 being prescribed opiates.

13 I also used Marinol to try and combat
14 the nausea. This was to no effect. It made my
15 fatigue worse. That's all. In order for the
16 antiviral drug therapy required to combat HIV to
17 work, you must maintain strict compliance. That
18 means taking the exact dosage at the exact time
19 every day on time. I could not comply with that
20 nor could many of my friends who were also stricken
21 with this disease.

22 By 1994, my health had declined to the
23 point that I was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS,
24 and I went on disability. I was on Social
25 Security, Medicare, and Medi-Cal which is Medicaid

1 Iowa State University with a 4.0 grade point
2 average, all while using marijuana every single
3 day.

4 And members of the board, you will see
5 the top article on there actually has to do with
6 there was -- the Dr. Koslow mentioned the -- this
7 article. It has to do with how marijuana helps
8 with adherence to the HIV regimen.

9 I now have a full-time job and am no
10 longer on disability. I'm not taking money from
11 the Social Security pool, which is designed for our
12 seniors and for people who really need it. I did
13 need it at the time, but I got myself to the point
14 where I could go away from that.

15 I'm not using Medicare funds, Medicaid
16 funds, funds from the Ryan White Act which supply
17 the very expensive medicines for AIDS patients.
18 I'm paying for those through my private insurance
19 from my employer, and I thank God for that.

20 My journey is not over yet, though.
21 The HIV virus does mutate very easily, and when it
22 does, it renders the drugs that you're taking
23 ineffective. Therefore, I've had to change my
24 regimen several times in the last several years,
25 and each time I've had to deal with a new set of

1 in the state of California.

2 In addition to my declining health, my
3 sporadic attempts at maintaining the drug therapy
4 had caused the virus to mutate, and the drugs were
5 no longer effective in combating the virus in my
6 body.

7 I was about to give up hope. Then in
8 1996 I was fortunate enough to work with Scott
9 Imler who gave me this pin. He was the coauthor of
10 Proposition 215 in California, the Compassionate
11 Use Act of 1996 which we did successfully pass, and
12 I was encouraged with this to try marijuana to
13 alleviate the side effects of the medicine.

14 I went to my doctor and got a new
15 regimen which also had very severe side effects,
16 and I was able to alleviate these side effects
17 through the use of marijuana. The marijuana helped
18 me with nausea, with the muscle cramps, and the
19 pain. It helped me with anxiety, and most
20 importantly, it helped me with the insomnia.

21 With the help of marijuana, I was
22 finally able to comply with the new treatment
23 regimen, and my health improved to the point that I
24 was able to return to school and finish my
25 bachelor's degree, and I graduated in 2005 from

1 side effects.

2 I'd like to say that I've been able to
3 conquer this, but it's been very difficult. I have
4 not been able to maintain strict compliance like I
5 did when I lived in California because -- and even
6 though my doctor does -- my doctor that's treating
7 me now does approve of my use of marijuana to
8 combat these side effects, I have not been able to
9 use marijuana because I cannot find a safe,
10 reliable source.

11 The only way I know to find marijuana
12 is through the black market, and dealing with
13 criminals is never a fun thing. Fear of

14 prosecution also makes this option less than
15 desirable and intensifies my anxiety.

16 So today I am here, along with many
17 others, asking the board to please recommend the
18 removal of marijuana from its current listing as a
19 Schedule I drug with no recognized medical value.
20 It does have medical value, and I'm living proof of
21 that fact.

22 I speak to you today as a patient.
23 I'm not a doctor or a scientist, but I know what
24 works for me, and I know what works for many other
25 people.

1 I have seen through -- after the
 2 passage of Proposition 215, I have witnessed many
 3 people who were at death's door. They were
 4 literally skeletons of their former selves. Once
 5 they were allowed to use marijuana legally, they
 6 began to gain weight. They were able to tolerate
 7 the drugs that they were prescribed, and now most
 8 of them are off of Social Security Disability or
 9 whatever plan they were on and are working jobs and
 10 paying their own way. They aren't living off of
 11 the entitlements.

12 For this reason I must state that
 13 marijuana does have medical value. I do not use
 14 marijuana to get high. Of course, when I was a
 15 teenager, I experimented, as did probably many
 16 people in this room, but that's not my point now.
 17 I use marijuana to stay alive.

18 So I ask again, please consider my
 19 story and those of others, and help us all to live
 20 happier, healthier, more productive lives by
 21 removing this plant which God has given us from the
 22 current Schedule I listing. Marijuana does have
 23 medical value. It has given me a second chance at
 24 life. Thank you.

25 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. That will

1 her about it. She told me that Franciscans had
 2 taken an oath when they made medicinal marijuana
 3 legal in Washington state to not prescribe it. She
 4 told me that if I can get some, that would be
 5 great.

6 So of course, I talked to my husband.
 7 He had a friend that smoked, and he got some for
 8 me. Within the first day of smoking, I felt so
 9 much better. I could eat. I was smiling. I was
 10 able to care for my other children, and they were
 11 being taken care of properly instead of me
 12 incapacitated on the couch in a ball.

13 So it was a major thing for me to
 14 smoke during my pregnancy. And a lot of you can
 15 judge me on that. That's fine. My son is now two.
 16 He's very healthy, very active. He's in early Head
 17 Start. He excels above most of the students in his
 18 class, and he has no problems at all, no side
 19 effects from me smoking during my pregnancy.

20 My doctor said that it probably helped
 21 than hurt anything, so that was big for me. Not
 22 only that, but the first documented cases of
 23 marijuana, if anybody has ever looked into it, was
 24 in Asia for pregnancy, PMS, and labor pains, so
 25 it's just a natural thing, and I think there are so

1 bring us to Audrey.

2 AUDREY HARSHBARGER: Thank you, guys,
 3 for having me here today. I have a very short
 4 story about my second pregnancy. About a year ago
 5 I moved here from Washington state. A year before
 6 that I was pregnant with my now two-year-old. At
 7 the time I had a six- and a four-year-old, which
 8 was a lot of work.

9 My husband was working full-time, and
 10 I experienced very, very painful, awful morning
 11 sickness, which if you've ever had a kid, I'm sure
 12 you're aware of.

13 I was prescribed Reglan because my
 14 ~~weight dropped 20 pounds in my first trimester.~~
 15 Reglan didn't help anything. It made me fall
 16 asleep for hours on the couch. God forbid one of
 17 my kids picked up something and stuck it in the
 18 outlet for that time. Excuse me.

19 I had more side effects if I didn't
 20 take the drug. They were ten times worse than they
 21 were before. I slept awful, had horrible dreams on
 22 Reglan, and so I talked to a friend that told me
 23 her doctor had prescribed her THC. It's legal in
 24 Washington state.

25 So I called my doctor, and I talked to

1 many wonderful benefits to it, and I think that
 2 it's somewhat ignorant to ignore the facts.

3 So that's all I really had to say
 4 today. Thank you so much.

5 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you, Audrey. Do
 6 we have Ann Du Bois?

7 ANN DU BOIS: Good afternoon,
 8 everybody. Thanks ahead of time for listening.
 9 Before I came to Iowa, I was involved in a
 10 multitrauma auto accident. I was further injured
 11 at the hospital. I experienced severe side effects
 12 from the pain medication.

13 After a lot of surgery, the best
 14 ~~prognosis I was given was that I would never walk~~
 15 again. I was fitted for a PTB brace, similar to
 16 what amputees would use, no physical therapy, and
 17 an endless supply of pain meds.

18 Tired of the medicine that only added
 19 to my discomfort, I tried cannabis. It allowed me
 20 to learn how to walk again by moving through the
 21 pain and helping with inflammation. So it was that
 22 my total disability was temporary. So it is that I
 23 used cannabis a short while instead of a lifelong
 24 prescription of pain meds, real health-care
 25 savings.

1 My mother was diagnosed with breast
 2 cancer. Researching for her, I came across Rick
 3 Simpson's video called Run from the Cure. She
 4 chose conventional treatment. The side effects of
 5 the treatment were devastating. She survives. Her
 6 doctor has told her that the chemo they gave her
 7 would have killed most people, and congratulations.

8 Sometime after that I found a large
 9 mass in my abdomen. I had no money, no health
 10 care, savings account. The research on
 11 cannabinoids seemed solid, and I decided to
 12 self-medicate. I consumed rock organic
 13 cannabinoids, about a half a gram a day for about
 14 three months.

15 The mass is gone. So -- so are two
 16 lymphedemas I've been living with for years as are
 17 the accompanying spider pains -- veins, gone.
 18 Years of digestinal complaints, gone. Headaches,
 19 gone. The results seem long-lasting. The only
 20 side effects have been positive.

21 I had to leave the state I'm in to get
 22 treatment. Cancer is epidemic in Iowa. I am not
 23 interested in only the for-profit pharmaceutical
 24 ideation of cannabis, the plant of renown.

25 Cannabis food and medicine is the

1 health-care reform that we need. Prevention is the
 2 best medicine; self-determination, the best policy.

3 If you want to win the hearts and mind
 4 of an oppressed people, try starting with an honest
 5 opportunity. The impact of rescheduling on
 6 individuals who require marijuana for medical
 7 purposes must be considered with respect to
 8 assessing marijuana as accepted medical use and
 9 safety.

10 Continued prohibition of marijuana as
 11 medical use has a cost effect on individuals who
 12 require it for therapeutic use. Rescheduling would
 13 expedite its legal availability to these

14 individuals, both with respect to entry into
 15 suitable research programs and to development of a
 16 legal production and delivery system.

17 Marijuana has at most a similar
 18 potential for abuse and dependency liability to
 19 Schedule III substances with accepted medical use
 20 in the United States such as Marinol and codeine.
 21 This is particularly true in comparison with
 22 Marinol as it has recently been demonstrated that
 23 the medicinal effects of Marinol and marijuana are
 24 largely identical.

25 Consequently, I request proceeding to

1 have marijuana removed from Schedule I and
 2 rescheduled in either of Schedules III, IV, or V of
 3 the Controlled Substances Act based on a formal
 4 assessment of its relative abuse potential and
 5 dependence liability.

6 The scientific record provides a
 7 compelling case for the removal of marijuana from
 8 Schedule I and the rescheduling of cannabis in
 9 Schedule III or less restrictive schedules.

10 This rescheduling would not only
 11 expedite the availability of legal cannabis to
 12 patients' needs, but it would also bring the
 13 government into compliance with the Controlled
 14 Substance Act which, subject to appropriate
 15 regulatory restrictions, mandates public access to
 16 therapeutic drugs and substances, including
 17 cannabis.

18 Unless existing restrictive state and
 19 federal laws governing marijuana are changed, there
 20 will be no future for either modern scientific
 21 investigation or controlled clinical trial by
 22 present day methods.

23 I found out when I was looking to help
 24 my mom that the United States Government has a
 25 patent on cannabinoids. They got this in 2003,

1 U.S. Patent 6630507, cannabinoids as antioxidants
 2 and neuroprotectants.

3 I read a study that came out two weeks
 4 ago that says not only does marijuana smoking not
 5 cause cancer, it actually protects against it.
 6 Prevention Research Journal has a study
 7 demonstrating that chronic long-term use of
 8 cannabis actually reduces the incidence of head and
 9 neck cancer.

10 Cannabis produces no disturbance of
 11 vegetative functioning whereas opiates like the
 12 ones I was given inhibit the gastrointestinal
 13 tract, the flow of bile, and the cough reflex.

14 I guess I could go on and on and on
 15 and on, but I'm going to conclude now by saying
 16 that it's time to grow up. It's time to do the
 17 work that's long been set aside. The most healing
 18 plants on the planet is undeniably harmful and
 19 illegal to grow or possess. This undeniable harm
 20 is only to those driven by greed and wishing for
 21 people to live in fear and doubt. Fear is absence
 22 of love. Doubt comes from living in fear.

23 Thank you. I have a video I'd like to
 24 give you now, and I'll mail you my written
 25 submission. Thank you.

1 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Is Peggy
2 Gallet here?

3 PEGGY GALLET: Hello. Thank you for
4 being here. My name is Peggy Gallet. I live in
5 Calhoun County. I am a weekly church attender.
6 I'm active in the local hospital auxiliary, have
7 never been arrested, have always paid and filed my
8 taxes timely.

9 I worked in the medical field, did
10 drug testing in a toxicology lab which was NIDA
11 approved, and I am a paralegal and finally was a
12 claims adjuster in workers' compensation for
13 15 years. I also was a medical marijuana patient
14 in California.

15 I moved to Iowa two years ago from
16 California where I had a medical prescription. How
17 bizarre to go from a legal medical cannabis state
18 to a state where felony and incarceration is the
19 penalty for use of this nontoxic medication.

20 In Iowa I would have to commit a
21 felony and pay more than four times as much on the
22 black market to obtain the same amount of cannabis
23 as I paid at a dispensary in California.

24 This is sad as Iowa is a wonderful
25 place to live otherwise. I love it here. I'll

1 never move back to California, regardless of what
2 you do.

3 In 2005 I was down to 120 pounds due
4 to my medical issues. I was on medication to
5 counteract the side effects of my medications. I
6 was stool incontinent, suffered from pancreas
7 attacks and tremors from Depakote.

8 I then tried a series of other meds
9 after being taken off Depakote and nearly gained
10 80 pounds due to the medications such as Zyprexa.
11 Thank God I went off it right away. I put
12 35 pounds on in six weeks. That causes diabetes.

13 Finally I got my medical card and used
14 cannabis to treat my mania from bipolar disorder
15 and anxiety disorders. It also helped with my
16 intermittent hiccups. If you've ever suffered from
17 hiccups that don't go away, it's horrible.
18 Insomnia and my chronic pain syndrome. It enhances
19 my prescription pain medications, and I do not
20 require opiates. I'm a witch with a B on opiates.
21 I do not like them.

22 My elevated liver enzymes did not come
23 from cannabis, and I do not even drink, so it
24 wasn't from alcohol.

25 My nephew has glaucoma and was on

1 medications that weren't very effective and were
2 very, very costly. He told me they were over 2,000
3 a month. He was advised to try medical cannabis,
4 got his card, and has better results without the
5 side effects and high cost.

6 My friend with MS also moved to a
7 state where this medicine is not available, and he
8 misses his pain relief. I had a neighbor in
9 California who was a retired city firefighter and
10 Vietnam vet. He was on several psychotropic meds
11 with marginal relief and sexual side effects. His
12 wife had left him.

13 I told him about medical cannabis. He
14 got his card, eventually was off his meds,
15 reconnected with his wife, and was happier than I'd
16 ever seen him before.

17 My son is 30 years old. I'm sorry. I
18 get cotton mouth from my medication. My son is
19 30 years old. He came here with me today. He has
20 chronic pain from inoperable tumors on his spine.
21 He also had a medical prescription, but in Iowa
22 that doesn't help him with his chronic pain.

23 He also suffers from severe chronic
24 depression and anxiety. He also has lost his best
25 medicine. My sister died of mesothelioma, which is

1 a cancer caused by asbestos, after a four-year
2 battle, which is really almost a record length for
3 living with that disease.

4 Early on she tried cannabis but was
5 unable to smoke it due to her diseased pleural
6 cavity. Thus, she was unable to benefit from
7 valuable -- from the valuable benefits as medical
8 cannabis was unavailable to her.

9 Had it been legal, she could have
10 purchased soup mix, honey tea, baked products at a
11 legal dispensary. They had medical marijuana
12 brownies and everything else. All she could get
13 down was ice cream. How sad that she didn't live
14 to see legalization.

15 My experience as a cannabis patient
16 was the product purchased was clearly labeled "For
17 medicinal use only. Keep out of the reach of
18 children." It was not easy to get a prescription.
19 Doctors were afraid of being dropped from their
20 malpractice policies or being somehow penalized for
21 prescribing something federally illegal, so I was
22 referred to a doctor that dedicated his practice to
23 determining medical need for cannabis.

24 Several patients there were not
25 prescribed what they seek as they did not medically

1 qualify. It was not easy to get into a dispensary,
2 even with the prescription. My prescription looked
3 like this, had my driver's license on it, the phone
4 number, and the name of -- the doctor's signature.

5 And I took that to my dispensary.

6 Once I got verified, which wasn't the first time I
7 went -- and I had to drive, you know, 100 miles to
8 the dispensary from where I lived. There were not
9 a lot of them around. I had to show my driver's
10 license as well as my prescription to gain entry
11 inside. I could not take a camera or a cell phone
12 inside the dispensary. Only persons with a
13 prescription were even allowed to work there.

14 We were only allowed to smoke in
15 private residences. My father watches Fox News,
16 and he told me that if they legalized medical
17 marijuana in Iowa, we'd be smoking in restaurants.
18 I assured him that was not true.

19 I was allowed to grow my own but only
20 on my own property and behind a locked fence. I
21 noticed that typical persons looked ill or much
22 like myself at the dispensaries.

23 Doctors should not be afraid to
24 prescribe this God-given medicinal plant which
25 ironically is not as toxic as most pharmaceuticals.

1 I never had to take meds to relieve side effects of
2 this medicine.

3 I beg you to thoroughly investigate
4 research and statistics from other countries as
5 it's illegal to do good research here, and when
6 they say that you can only accept research from
7 your country, and you're not allowed to do the
8 research, then we have to go to other countries to
9 find the research, and that's not why I'm here.
10 I'm not a research scientist.

11 I'm here to beg you to make a
12 recommendation to our legislature to make this
13 medicine available to me in Iowa. I want quality
14 of life again. I do not want to become a criminal
15 to use this valuable plant as I have been unable to
16 find pharmaceuticals to relieve my symptoms.

17 Do you have any questions?

18 LLOYD JESSEN: No, I don't think we
19 do, but thank you very much.

20 PEGGY GALLET: Thank you.

21 LLOYD JESSEN: We're ready for Speaker
22 No. 5.

23 JEANETTE REARDON: Thank you
24 for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I
25 also have a number of medical issues. I am on

1 Depakote. I am --

2 LLOYD JESSEN: I'm sorry. Could you
3 start by giving us your name?

4 JEANETTE REARDON: My name is Jeanette
5 Reardon. I'm a 59-year-old woman on disability due
6 to an accident. I have bipolar too. I've
7 shattered my left arm. I have a metal elbow. Some
8 of the nerves have never come back. I am in
9 constant pain.

10 I am on Hydrocodone/APAP,
11 500 milligrams a day which does nothing but make me
12 sleep for at least eight to twelve hours. I cannot
13 take that and function. I'm on clonazepam, which
14 is also a high drug, and I'm on Depakote. I take
15 seven pills in the morning and six pills at night.
16 I am worried more about what all of these
17 medications are doing to my body and my liver.

18 I have been trying desperately to get
19 my doctor to re-examine, re-examine, re-examine,
20 and retest me to try to get me off some of this
21 medication.

22 I do on occasion when I can get it
23 smoke cannabis. It does not take all the pain
24 away, but it does make it tolerable. It's when
25 it's not tolerable, I can't stand it. It makes the

1 pain tolerable that I can get through the day. It
2 makes the depression easier that I can get through
3 the day without breaking into tears.

4 I have been through a number of
5 traumatic experiences which I am not going to go
6 into today. I am under counseling for those
7 things. I -- also, my doctor is working with my
8 counselor, and I am still trying to get off this
9 medication.

10 I do not go out and seek illegal
11 cannabis because I'm afraid to. I have several
12 people that will give me small amounts. I don't
13 even have the money to buy cannabis on the illegal
14 market. That is another factor. I don't want to
15 get cannabis on the illegal market. I want it
16 prescribed through the doctors, through the
17 pharmacy. I want it controlled.

18 We would not need all of this drug
19 cartel coming in if our own United States would
20 take care of its people. From the first speaker
21 that you heard from today, he was quoting
22 statistics from 1993, 1994. This is 2009, almost
23 2010.

24 I am from the '60s generation. We
25 have known for a long, long time the benefits of

1 cannabis. I do not drink alcohol. I cannot drink
2 alcohol. If you drink three to five drinks of
3 alcohol a week, you have a worse problem than I do.
4 It is more harmful to your system. You are
5 considered an alcoholic under the programs that are
6 treating alcoholics. That is something to
7 consider.

8 You fought for prohibition for
9 alcohol. It is way, way, way past time to fight
10 for the prohibition of cannabis. We have known for
11 a long time, it is not addictive. It does not lead
12 to bigger and better drugs. There are addictive
13 personalities out there, but the drug itself is not
14 addictive.

15 In fact, when I moved to California
16 before my accident, I worked for the federal
17 government, Department of Veterans Affairs. I also
18 worked for the aerospace industry. I quit like
19 that (indicating) for ten years because I did not
20 believe in my heart and in my mind that it was
21 right to do something illegal when you are working
22 in a position like that because of the laws of our
23 country.

24 I am asking -- I am begging you today
25 to consider where we are today, how many people

1 need this change, and how many years we've been
2 fighting for it. We've been fighting for this
3 since the '60s. This is 2009. Now we have an
4 opportunity for the medical society.

5 You are the president of the
6 physicians -- I'm sorry -- I can't remember your
7 title. For the pharmaceutical --

8 BOARD MEMBER BENJAMIN: Board.

9 JEANETTE REARDON: I am begging you to
10 take another look at this. I've had too many
11 people in my family die of cancer that could not
12 get marijuana to help their symptoms. I can't get
13 it to help my symptoms. I try, but I can't afford
14 ~~it on the black market, and then most of the time~~
15 it's not worth it anyway.

16 So if it's under a controlled
17 situation, grown and controlled by our government
18 and administered properly through our medical
19 society and our pharmacists, we will have a better
20 product that is more affordable and can help more
21 people.

22 I don't need the extra four minutes or
23 one minute, whatever that says.

24 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Yes. You have one
25 minute left.

1 JEANETTE REARDON: Okay. Do you have
2 any questions for me?

3 LLOYD JESSEN: No, we don't. Thank
4 you very much.

5 JEANETTE REARDON: Thank you for
6 allowing me to speak.

7 LLOYD JESSEN: Is Kevin Feeley here?
8 Kevin Feeley? Is Amanda Feeley here? Okay. Then
9 we will move to Speaker No. 6.

10 ADDY: Can't you call a couple of the
11 speakers and get them ready? We'll never make it.

12 LLOYD JESSEN: Now we're in numerical
13 order from six onward.

14 ADDY: Okay. So six onward, so seven
15 should be ready then.

16 LLOYD JESSEN: Yes.

17 DEBBIE JORGENSON: I'd like to remind
18 everyone if they could state their name and spell
19 it for the court reporter, that would be great.

20 RAY LAKERS: No problem. My name is
21 Ray Lakers, R-a-y L-a-k-e-r-s, age 42, Des Moines,
22 Iowa.

23 Before I begin my presentation, first
24 let me thank you for giving me another opportunity
25 to testify in public that medical marijuana is

1 beneficial to my health. Just as I suffer, many
2 Iowans suffer who are too afraid to speak in
3 public. That is why I'm here, God as my witness.

4 My name is Ray Lakers, age 42. I was
5 diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2004. The
6 first attack involved paralysis on the right side
7 of my body.

8 Being uninsured, I've accumulated over
9 \$9,000 in unpaid medical bills from the first year
10 and a half of diagnosis, doctor visits, outpatient,
11 and steroid treatments. In that time I've learned
12 a lot about life, my life, how I would choose to
13 live my life and what therapy I would treat myself
14 with.

15 In that time I have managed to work
16 full-time, and I've held the same position with two
17 promotions in the last three years. I must be
18 doing something right, shattering every
19 preconceived notion about medical marijuana
20 patients that many of you of the opposition are all
21 about.

22 When I was diagnosed with multiple
23 sclerosis in 2004, I was very fearful of my future
24 and my health. I then learned that Montel Williams
25 had been treating his condition with medical

1 marijuana and that Iowa resident Barbara Douglass
2 who is also the second person in Iowa that receives
3 medical marijuana from our government along with
4 George McMahon improved with miraculous results.

5 I started to trust the way my body
6 felt. Given opiate painkillers left me lethargic
7 as do the steroid treatments that leave me in a
8 state where I'm unable to complete normal
9 day-to-day functions like work and providing for my
10 family.

11 With marijuana being the safest
12 therapeutically active substance known to man, and
13 safer than many of the foods we commonly eat, you
14 haven't much reason to deny medical marijuana to
15 anyone who claims to need it.

16 We let people buy toxic acetaminophen
17 over-the-counter in any amount they choose to use
18 anytime they choose for any ailment they choose
19 without ever seeing a doctor or undergoing an
20 examination, yet people can overdose or die or
21 suffer long-term health effects from acetaminophen.

22 Just this year it was determined
23 26 percent of those with liver ailments and failure
24 used acetaminophen over a long period of time,
25 either an over-the-counter or with their

1 time, patients are still at risk of arrest for the
2 smallest amount. Someone suffering from Crohn's
3 disease, cancer, AIDS, epilepsy, ALS, MS,
4 fibromyalgia can be arrested, all because they made
5 a choice to live a better quality of life and are
6 subject to draconian marijuana laws and politicians
7 who conduct themselves like walking death panels
8 when making public comments about medical marijuana
9 patients. One is in this room.

10 If they only knew the pain we feel
11 every time someone like Iowa State Rep Clel Baudier
12 openly endorses OxyContin over medical marijuana.
13 Does this man not know anything about prescription
14 drug abuse and the deaths of young adults that is
15 becoming an epidemic with annual death tolls? Some
16 overdose from over-the-counter medications also.

17 Please, I ask you to lose your fear of
18 medical marijuana and to fear those in office or
19 the medical profession who are against it. If
20 you're asked, many of those who are against it,
21 they can't give any other reason than
22 reformat-induced myths that are being shattered as
23 we sit and hold these hearings for the next four
24 months.

25 The science that has been introduced,

1 prescription opiates.

2 Now, this quote is from a letter I
3 received from Iowa Senator Charles Grassley in
4 2006. Charles Grassley said "The FDA has developed
5 a careful proven method for testing and approving
6 drugs for medical use. The tests the FDA
7 approved -- the tests that FDA-approved medicines
8 undergo are both exhaustive and time-consuming.
9 The testing methods are conducted to ensure safety,
10 determine accurate doses, and to diagnose any
11 potential harmful side effects."

12 Well, Dr. Death Panel Grassley, how
13 many FDA drugs are facing class-action lawsuits
14 over FDA-approved drugs? Many of these drugs
15 include side effects like suicide. I will not take
16 anything that contains a side effect that results
17 in the end of my life or makes me less able to
18 function on a day-to-day basis. Please educate
19 yourself to know that medical marijuana is a
20 doctor-patient decision and not a drug.

21 Botanical cannabis is a therapeutic
22 medicine used for over 2,000 years, yet only
23 illegal since 1937. Do yourself a favor and find
24 out why.

25 While we hold these hearings in this

1 being a living person or a nonbiased study now on
2 your table, no other state went through a pharmacy
3 review. It was all as a public health board. Many
4 drugs that you are in charge of at the pharmacy
5 board aren't healthy for me. Neither is jail.
6 Iowa is again the first against something. Thanks
7 for putting us back on the map.

8 If anything, it gives those on the
9 opposition to reveal themselves because in 2010 to
10 be against medical marijuana and compassionate care
11 is political suicide.

12 In states that do not have working --
13 in states that do have working successful medical

14 marijuana programs, patients receive doctor
15 recommendations, not prescriptions. Isn't the
16 Board of Pharmacy about prescribed medicine? If my
17 doctor recommended a ginseng root or any other
18 therapeutic natural herb, she wouldn't need your
19 permission. Why? Because I trust her
20 recommendation and knowing that this plant God
21 created is safe for me.

22 There's more harm in denying medical
23 marijuana patients their choice than them using it.
24 Save the "Smoked medicine is not healthy" argument
25 because for me, I receive more therapeutic relief

1 from using a vaporizer or cooking it in food. On
2 top of it, there is no proven link to lung cancer
3 in marijuana smoke. I believe you will find that
4 among your stack of facts that were presented. And
5 also, your gateway drug fears will be shattered
6 along the way as well.

7 From a fellow MS patient who turned 40
8 three weeks ago, I got an e-mail from him. He said
9 "Three days later" -- this is when he first started
10 using medical marijuana as an alternative therapy.
11 He said "Three days later I smoked my first joint.
12 I have MS, and my leg was cramping to the point
13 that I could not straighten it. I was in pain to
14 the point of tears. Think about having a charley
15 horse that lasts for days. Well, the -- well, the
16 pot gave me some relief. I cannot stand out of my
17 wheelchair for" -- excuse me. "I could stand out
18 of my wheelchair for the first time in days. My
19 pain lessened to the point I could think straight.
20 Don't tell me about other drugs I could take. I've
21 tried them. They don't work for me, and they leave
22 me in a much more drugged-out stupor than marijuana
23 does. It is time to let the adults make the
24 decisions for themselves. Why should I pay big
25 pharma when I could grow the medicine myself?"

1 Well, my answer for you, my brother
2 with MS, big pharma -- big pharmacy would rather
3 you slowly kill yourself as long as they get paid.
4 Their bottom line is all that really matters.

5 And all of you who state that there's
6 no such thing as medical marijuana, please research
7 U.S. Patent 6630507. You will find the owner none
8 other than the U.S. Government.

9 Now, just this week, it's been
10 revealed, I mean, chronic marijuana smokers' lungs
11 are no worse than nonsmokers. Marijuana as a
12 preventative medicine may help the elderly with
13 osteoporosis and research -- you know, this is
14 ~~being done by arthritis research over in east~~
15 Europe.

16 So I mean that's basically everything
17 I have to say, but as far as that guy from the Elks
18 or whatever, the Iowa Health Association that said
19 about the National MS Society, okay. There's part
20 of a reason why they won't, you know, make a
21 statement to endorse it, but why is the National MS
22 Society of Great Britain and Canada endorsing
23 medical marijuana for its patients?

24 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Do we have
25 Kevin Feeley here?

1 KEVIN FEELEY: Good afternoon. Good
2 afternoon, everyone. My name is Kevin Harper
3 Feeley. I would like to speak with you on the
4 subject of cannabis or marijuana and its
5 derivatives in the treatment of lymphoma and the
6 side effects of cancer treatment and recovery. I
7 will cover some of the botanically significant
8 information as well.

9 Cannabis, originally from central
10 Asia, has been utilized by human beings for
11 thousands of years. Some of the earliest evidence
12 of inhalation of the fumes from burning cannabis
13 seem to come from little cluster states back
14 thousands of years.

15 These are the central Asians that also
16 brought us the domestication of the horse. This
17 was one of the few instances of smoking in the
18 pre-Columbian eastern hemisphere. One of cultures
19 that adopted cannabis was the Chinese. Traditional
20 Chinese medicine, or TCM, is the oldest
21 continuously used medical system in human history.

22 With thousands of years of botanical
23 data behind them, TCM practitioners have fettered
24 out the plans that best served the needs of the
25 patient. One classification within TCM is called

1 tonics. Tonics are considered nontoxic and safe
2 for daily consumption. One popular tonic within
3 TCM is ginseng. Another is cannabis.

4 Cannabis preparations are also
5 considered tonics by TCM, and as such have
6 thousands of years of empirical data to back up
7 their efficacy.

8 During the Mexican revolution the use
9 of cannabis became popular with the members of the
10 populous uprising. Cannabis sativa, the southern
11 cousin of cannabis indica, had been transported to
12 the western hemisphere by individuals from the
13 Indian subcontinent, brought here in its physical
14 labor. Cannabis sativa, being sacred to Sheba, was
15 brought along with many other traditions and
16 customs and adopted by the native and European
17 descendent populations as a recreational
18 euphoriant.

19 Cannabinoids are a complex group of
20 organic compounds. Included are
21 Tetrahydrocannabinol, THC; cannabidiol, CBD; and
22 cannabinol, CBN. There are also a wide array of
23 secondary compounds including terpenoids,
24 flavonoids, phenols, and other minor cannabinoids
25 contained within any average sample cannabis.

1 By asserting that the chemically
2 sensitized or isolated agents provides the same
3 level of relief that whole organic plant sources
4 can is absurd. The greater cannabinoid complex
5 works in a highly synergistic fashion.

6 The research on the effects that the
7 secondary cannabinoids have on the action of
8 cannabis products within the human body is just now
9 beginning to be understood. The assumption that
10 this plant can produce another silver bullet for
11 the exploitation by the pharmaceutical industry is
12 scurrilous at best and guided not by the thought of
13 easing suffering but with the intention of
14 fattening yet another bottom line.

15 Around the turn of the 20th century,
16 many discoveries were made, and numerous novel
17 pharmacologically significant compounds were
18 isolated. At the same time these discoveries were
19 being distributed to the public lab for vetting.

20 These compounds and extractions could
21 be purchased at any druggist on an over-the-counter
22 basis. In response to regulations on drugs and
23 their distribution and purity created a new safety
24 net for society.

25 Some thought that this did not go far

1 enough. So they pushed to flatly outlaw alcohol as
2 well. We all remember how well that went, don't
3 we?

4 Though their intentions may have been
5 in the right place, they failed to realize that
6 alcohol is not at fault. There's no question how
7 history has interpreted the experiment of American
8 temperance. An era of widespread corruption
9 blossomed, the likes of which is still legendary.

10 But blind to this lesson, we trudge
11 on. Numerous plant species are cultivated for the
12 biopharmaceutical market such as opiates, cocoa,
13 jimson weed, and yams. A change in the law will
14 give a direct benefit to the farmers of Iowa.

15 By encouraging local production,
16 quality controls maintained, an Iowa farmer will
17 have a lucrative crop that can be put into
18 immediate rotation. Jobs will be created by the
19 need for the processing of finished cannabis
20 products. Much of this work is done by hand, and
21 large-scale production techniques still require a
22 great deal of hands-on processing. Mature cannabis
23 floral clusters are not so much flowers as very
24 delicate fruit. The economic benefits will be
25 numerous. Jobs.

1 I first encountered marijuana in
2 college. I tried it and wasn't sure if I liked it,
3 so I tried it again, and I liked it. I found that
4 it made me feel giggly and hungry. It was
5 pleasant. And unlike alcohol, when I woke the next
6 day, I felt fine.

7 Throughout the next couple of years, I
8 occasionally enjoyed a few puffs. Then life moved
9 on, wife, kids, career. Back pain, more back pain,
10 and even more back pain. Visits to the doctor and
11 the chiropractor yielded only temporary relief.

12 One day I ran into an old friend.
13 That old friend shared a puff with me, and the pain
14 was gone. Finally I found something that worked,
15 so I used it. Then I stopped using it because I
16 wanted to be a law-abiding citizen, and the pain
17 returned.

18 I first -- I turned to exercise. For
19 a while that worked. Then the pain returned. And
20 then numbness started. It got worse. It got to
21 the point where I couldn't feel below my naval, so
22 I went to the emergency room.

23 Lymphoma of the spine. It had been
24 there for about seven years. My cannabis
25 consumption had been keeping the swelling down so

1 that my normal healthy precancer life was extended
2 well beyond what it should have been.

3 After undergoing treatments, I was
4 eased off the steroids to see if the tumor would
5 re-express. Sure enough it did and it had spread.
6 I collapsed at home and was put into the hospital,
7 again dropping weight.

8 After nearly dying and some time in a
9 semi-coma, I returned to consciousness, though my
10 appetite didn't return. The chemotherapy drugs and
11 other medications that I was on were causing
12 uncontrolled nausea. I vomited at every meal and
13 even in between. I lost over 100 pounds.

14 During this time I was put on
15 anti-nausea medications with known harmful side
16 effects. The drugs did little more than suppress
17 my gag reflex. Though I was able to keep food
18 down, it was not pleasant.

19 Finally my wife requested that I be
20 put on Marinol to see if this would help the side
21 effects of the chemotherapy. Though it did ease
22 some of the nausea, it did little for the other
23 symptoms that I was experiencing.

24 Once released from the hospital, I
25 returned home to rebuild my life. Still very weak

1 and suffering the consequences of numerous
2 chemotherapy treatments on my cancer-weakened body,
3 I desperately needed to get nutrients to begin
4 healing. I knew of one thing that could help,
5 though I was also aware of the legal consequences.
6 I returned to a medicine that I knew would work and
7 I knew wouldn't harm me in any unknown ways,
8 cannabis.

9 Once I procured some and I was able to
10 medicate, I ate a meal, and I didn't vomit for the
11 first time in a long time. I did not vomit. After
12 that meal I went and laid down, and for the first
13 time in a long time, I did not ache all over. The
14 wound in my spine did not throb. The nerve pain in
15 my feet did not send sparks up and down my legs. I
16 felt human again.

17 Since then, I have gained weight and
18 am -- and starting a new job at the end of the
19 month and returning to productive society. While
20 at home, I have rearranged the furniture, cleaned
21 the house a number of times, gotten to work on many
22 personal projects, and am enjoying time with my
23 family. My recovery has been a long one, and it is
24 far from over. That recovery would not have been
25 possible without cannabis at my disposal.

1 There are many others who are in the
2 position I have been in and without the ability to
3 get medicine that will make the difference between
4 recovery and a nursing home. This is unfortunate.

5 There is no reason a grandmother with
6 glaucoma should go blind in the state of Iowa.
7 There is no reason that cancer patients should not
8 get to eat in the state of Iowa. There is no
9 reason other than, frankly, feeble ones that have
10 been given as today 13 states as well as the
11 federal government recognize that cannabis and its
12 derivatives have a significant medical action --
13 sorry -- on numerous recognized disorders. Many
14 other industrialized nations have as well.

15 For Iowa to trail in an area so
16 significant to so many Iowans is beyond me.
17 Cannabis reform is not only a legal issue, it is
18 also an economic issue, a moral issue, and a matter
19 of common sense.

20 If you would like to make Iowans
21 safer, then put a safer alternative in their hands.
22 Cannabis handles the headache without the danger of
23 ulcers and a much lower liver toxicity than any
24 over-the-counter pain medication. It handles
25 nausea without the danger of neurological damage

1 and handles insomnia without the danger of
2 overdose.

3 I consume cannabis on a regular basis
4 to maintain my health. A day without cannabis for
5 me is a day I would rather not have. Pain and
6 nausea still haunt me, and doctors tell me probably
7 will for the rest of my life.

8 Nothing else has provided me with the
9 relief I need while at the same time allowing me to
10 function as a productive member of society and of
11 my household.

12 I am a criminal because of your
13 inaction. Because of your long-standing
14 unwillingness to hear the facts about cannabis
15 species and their derivatives, I am a criminal and
16 will continue to be one until the day you finally
17 get off your hands and do something about this
18 inequity.

19 People are suffering that need not
20 suffer. People are rotting in jail that need not
21 be there. All of this is wasting tax dollars and
22 hours of productivity. How much good will a person
23 like me do at their new job if all they can do is
24 lie in bed, try not to vomit, and do their best to
25 ignore the pain? Or should I rely upon your

1 board-approved medications and lie in bed all day
2 knocked out on narcotics unable to function in the
3 real world or relate to other human beings?

4 Should I enjoy a meal or take your
5 board-approved medications and take my chances with
6 neurological disorders and dangerous spasms? At
7 what point do my children get to stop worrying that
8 I might get taken away just because I want to be
9 able to live a normal life?

10 At what point do I get to stop being a
11 criminal, ladies and gentlemen? Thank you for your
12 time.

13 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you, Kevin. Is
14 Amanda Feeley here?

15 AMANDA FEELEY: Good afternoon. Thank
16 you for giving us this opportunity to speak.

17 You just sat and heard my husband talk
18 about how he dealt with his cancer. When he was
19 diagnosed, I was two months pregnant with our
20 fourth child, and he said to me "Honey, I can't
21 feel my legs anymore."

22 And I said "What do you mean, you
23 can't feel your legs?"

24 He says "They're numb."

25 And I said "We need to go to the