

1 emergency room."
2 And we spent all night in the
3 emergency room until we could get an MRI the next
4 morning, and they came in and said "I'm sorry. You
5 have cancer."

6 He had five weeks of radiation, and we
7 were staying in Ames with friends from our church,
8 and when we went to move back into our house after
9 that, we found out a black mold had taken over our
10 home, and we lost everything.

11 We moved to Ames, and he seemed to be
12 doing okay but not really getting any better, and
13 he was in and out of the hospital. And in April of
14 2008, he collapsed on the floor at home in front of
15 the children, and I had to call 911 being eight
16 months pregnant.

17 They took him. He was in the I.C.U.
18 They told me if they didn't start chemotherapy
19 right away, he would be dead within a week or so.
20 It was that far advanced.

21 The drugs that he had for chemotherapy
22 caused neuropathy. It caused horrible nausea. In
23 eight months he lost over 100 pounds. He's 6 foot
24 3. After he came home, he was so weak, and he
25 still continued to lose weight. And I had a new

1 As soon as he took marijuana for the
2 first time, he ate a meal and not just a bite, but
3 he ate a full-sized meal for an adult. And he
4 didn't throw up anymore, and he went and laid down,
5 and he wasn't in pain. And he cried, and he says
6 "Why is this so wrong? What is so wrong about not
7 being in pain?"

8 And I said "I don't know. I don't
9 know." And I finally had Kevin back because before
10 then, it was just this little old man in pain. I
11 finally saw the person that I fell in love with
12 again and that I had children with and I wanted to
13 spend my life with.

14 We celebrated our 10th wedding
15 anniversary while he was in the hospital. I'm 34.
16 I have a friend, Senator Beal, and he told me when
17 we were talking about this that he said to me, and
18 I quote, "Generally Iowans know the right thing to
19 do." We trust our doctors with heroin and opium
20 derivatives, amphetamines, and cocaine during heart
21 surgery. I think we can trust them with some
22 marijuana.

23 And for those of you who would say,
24 well, what about children? What are we going to
25 do? What about the children? Well, responsible

1 baby, and I had been a stay-at-home mom. I had
2 never worked after college. I had stayed home with
3 the kids.

4 And he continued to lose weight. Once
5 he hit 119 pounds and the nausea medications
6 weren't working and the Marinol wasn't working, I
7 decided I couldn't sit around and watch him starve
8 to death anymore.

9 So I went to a friend and said "Can
10 you help me?" He was taking 30 OxyContin every
11 five days for the pain. And within an hour or two
12 of taking it, he says "When can I have more pain
13 medication?"

14 And I said "You can't. I can't give
15 you anymore right now." And my kids had to watch
16 him. He was like an old man rolled up in a ball in
17 the living room, and he was 35. I was like a
18 single mom who had four kids and an elderly parent
19 to take care of.

20 And so I took matters into my own
21 hands, and I did what I had to do because I wanted
22 my husband back, and my children needed a father.
23 And so he was on three different kinds of nausea
24 medications and appetite stimulants, including
25 Marinol.

1 parents teach their children not to take medicine
2 that they don't need.

3 In our society we don't penalize the
4 majority of people because a minority of people
5 might try to take advantage of something. We
6 shouldn't make people criminals, and you are in
7 effect making people criminals because you will not
8 do your duty by rescheduling this substance.

9 My daughter has something she'd like
10 to say. Her name is Morgan. Her name is Morgan
11 and she's ten.

12 MORGAN FEELEY: I think that marijuana
13 should be a medicine for everyone to use if they
14 really need it. I don't think anyone would take it
15 if they didn't need it. Marijuana is a really good
16 painkiller. It helps you sleep and relieves
17 nausea.

18 My dad was very sick for a really long
19 time, and some of the medicines they gave him
20 didn't really help at all with any of those things.
21 A lot of them just made them worse.

22 The Constitution says we have a right
23 to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
24 How can you pursue happiness if you feel yucky all
25 the time? Marijuana is a very useful plant. It

1 shouldn't be illegal.

2 AMANDA FEELEY: Thank you.

3 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker would be Speaker No. 7. However, let's
5 take a five-minute break right now. Thank you.

6 (Short recess.)

7 LLOYD JESSEN: We will resume the
8 hearing. Would Speaker No. 7 come to the stage.

9 DEBBIE JORGENSON: And while he's
10 coming down here, we are done with the speakers who
11 have signed up, so from now on, it's just going to
12 be going in numerical order.

13 JEFF ELTON: Greetings, as the draft
14 board says, and thank you for letting me be here.
15 First of all, I'd like to point out a few things.
16 I've learned a lot today.

17 BOARD MEMBER BENJAMIN: Your name.

18 JEFF ELTON: Thank you. My name is
19 Jeff Elton, J-e-f E-l-t-o-n. I live in
20 Des Moines, Iowa.

21 Concerning SF 293 coming up next year,
22 that will not allow people to drive under the
23 influence of marijuana. It will not allow smoking
24 in public places, and if we have a dispensary, it
25 will be for nonprofit.

1 One question for everybody to
2 consider. What kind of government prohibits
3 research into any drug that helps the human
4 condition? I'll leave that up to you.

5 And straight to the Board of Pharmacy,
6 there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Scientific
7 proof of the effect of cannabis is here and is
8 available. It's -- it's not new. It's old.

9 I suffer from diabetic neuropathic
10 gastroparesis, paralyzed stomach. I also suffer
11 from GERD and diabetic neuropathy, all of which are
12 greatly and safely treated with medical marijuana.
13 The most severe disease, gastroparesis, its
14 symptoms are delayed stomach emptying, chronic
15 nausea, vomiting, and wasting syndrome.

16 Marinol doesn't work for me. I've
17 tried it for years. The biggest benefit that
18 Marinol has as a citizen of the state of Iowa is it
19 legally allows me to have THC in my system in case
20 I ever have to drop a UA or they take blood. Okay?
21 And they say "You're driving under the influence."
22 No, I'm not. I'm on Marinol. You know, doesn't
23 have the psychoactive ingredient. Even though it
24 has THC, the psychoactive part has been removed.

25 Most -- like I say, gastroparesis is

1 the most severe illness I have, wasting syndrome,
2 chronic nausea, vomiting. I've tried Marinol for
3 years. In 2008 I lost 100 pounds over -- in the
4 course of one year. I was able to turn that around
5 by getting off of Marinol and onto marijuana or
6 cannabis, vaporized, by the way, and that's what I
7 do, is I vaporize.

8 Vaporized marijuana is the healthiest
9 way to get the cannabinoids into your bloodstream.
10 It also allows the patient a better way to titrate
11 their dose and prevents the release of harmful
12 chemicals like benzene and the tars and carcinogens
13 that go along with smoking.

14 The inhalation of marijuana vapors
15 gives me safe, effective, and immediate relief from
16 chronic nausea and vomiting. There is no drug in
17 today's pharmacopeia that can claim that.

18 The only help my doctors can offer me
19 since Marinol does not work and because Cesamet is
20 restricted, emphasis added, to cancer patients 18
21 years and older suffering from chemo-related nausea
22 only, I can get Reglan/metoclopramide, which has
23 already been mentioned here today and which there
24 are active lawsuits going on right now in this
25 country because of the damage from this drug.

1 That's the only drug my doctors can legally offer
2 me.

3 As my digestive specialist handed me
4 my Reglan prescription, he said "Do not take Reglan
5 on a regular basis for it causes irreversible
6 Parkinson-like shakes and tremors." This is not
7 rare. This is a common side effect.

8 Though rarer, it does also cause
9 neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which is fatal.
10 Currently there are laws pertaining to the damages
11 of using Reglan, as I mentioned. Therefore, a man
12 like me who has lifelong gastroparesis, paralyzed
13 stomach, who suffers chronic nausea as bad, if not
14 worse, than any chemo-related nausea, I must live
15 as a sufferer and live in fear of arrest,
16 prosecution, imprisonment, forfeiture of money,
17 property, housing, educational and health-care
18 governmental benefits just to try to control the
19 symptoms of my lifelong disease. There is no
20 justice in this. This is not fair.

21 Using the benefit versus risk factor,
22 there is no doubt that marijuana is by far safer,
23 healthier, and more effective than any prescription
24 drug in today's pharmacopeia in controlling my
25 chronic nausea, vomiting, chronic back pain, and

1 neuropathic pain. Just compare marijuana to
2 Reglan.
3 To force me to go without treatment or
4 to use Reglan is tantamount to a death sentence
5 with torture. Is this the United States of
6 America? It is today. But you have the
7 opportunity to change that. Please let me and the
8 others have safe and legal access to the only
9 medicine that helps, medical marijuana.

10 As a citizen of the state of Iowa, I
11 should not have to live with violence, corruption,
12 and loss of personal liberty -- this is a quote
13 from the alcohol prohibition days -- that was --
14 simply by trying to control severe symptoms caused
15 by my lifelong disease.

16 I can't believe the comparisons
17 between alcohol prohibition and cannabis
18 prohibition.

19 For the -- for the Board of Pharmacy
20 to recommend negative or give a negative
21 recommendation and for the legislature to not pass
22 SF 293, that would be the real crime. Thank you.

23 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
24 No. 8. Speaker No. 8? Okay. No. 9. Do we have
25 No. 9?

1 can't sleep.

2 And I have tried the marijuana, and it
3 seems to alleviate that pain. I mean the jerking
4 of it, it's like my legs will spasm, and I've
5 counted them, and I could -- I could count -- I
6 mean I'm telling you the truth. My legs will jerk
7 five times a minute. My left leg will do that the
8 most. My right one is not so bad.

9 But to live with that, I've been
10 paralyzed since 2002 or 2003. It's been such a
11 long time ago. But I've been dealing with this
12 since then. I was on Baclofen, and the Baclofen
13 never ever helped. I took so much Baclofen, I
14 would have incontinence. I couldn't control
15 anything, and then -- so I just -- and I realized
16 the Baclofen wasn't working, so I just up and quit
17 taking that.

18 And then I was introduced to the
19 smoke, and I took a couple puffs, and my -- my legs
20 didn't bother me anymore.

21 But that's -- that's the only thing I
22 have to say, and if you would do something like
23 this, I think it would be beneficial for people
24 like me and for other cases here too. It would be
25 a godsend, I think.

1 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Are you No. 9?
2 EUGENE BROOME: Yes, ma'am.
3 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Okay. I'll bring
4 this down here.
5 EUGENE BROOME: Hello there. My name
6 is Eugene Broome.
7 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Here. Let me get
8 you another one. That one is not working too well.
9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Speak into the end
10 of it as well.
11 EUGENE BROOME: Hello? Can you hear
12 me?
13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Speak into the end
14 of it.

15 EUGENE BROOME: Okay. My name is
16 Eugene Broome, and I live in Des Moines, and I've
17 got a disease called -- I'm not going to take up a
18 lot of time, but I've got a disease called
19 transverse myelitis which is the inflammation of
20 the spinal cord, and I've got severe nerve damage
21 in my legs. And I've got severe nerve damage in my
22 legs.

23 And I'm not bad off as a lot of these
24 other people are, but when I -- when I lay down at
25 night to go to sleep, my legs jerk so bad that I

1 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Could you spell
2 your last name, please?

3 EUGENE BROOME: Broome, B-r-o-o-m-e.

4 DEBBIE JORGENSON: B-r-o-m-e?

5 EUGENE BROOME: B-r-o-o-m-e.

6 DEBBIE JORGENSON: Two Os?

7 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker

8 No. 7? All right. No. 9.

9 ADDY: You want 10.

10 LLOYD JESSEN: I'm sorry. We're on
11 No. 10 next. Ten. Eight is not here? No. All
12 right. Then we'll go to No. 10.

13 MERLYN CORDES: My name is Merlyn

14 M-e-r-l-y-n, Cordes, C-o-r-d-e-s. I have
15 pancreatic cancer. I have thyroid cancer. I'm in
16 Stage IV. I don't know how much longer I have
17 left.

18 But I'm going to tell you guys from
19 the bottom of my heart, I was just released from
20 the VA Hospital. I'm a veteran. And my blood
21 pressure went to 235 over 112. They put on a
22 nitroglycerin patch which made my blood pressure
23 increase, so they ripped it off. They washed me
24 off.

25 I was on an IV, and they gave me

1 something through the IV that I didn't know what it
2 was. They didn't tell me at the time. But they
3 were rushing in and out of my room. And it was
4 something -- I'm probably not correct on the
5 pronunciation but Dilaudid or Dilaudid? It's a
6 derivative of opium.

7 Well, all it did was made my head
8 really fuzzy, and I couldn't think clearly, but I
9 fell asleep, and I had the tumor in the pancreas
10 was pushing against the small intestine, causing a
11 blockage. And I was always on four blood pressure
12 pills, and I had the opportunity to try to smoke
13 marijuana.

14 As a matter of fact, I called down
15 here first. I'm 67 years old, and I lost my mother
16 last year at 90 with colon cancer, and I was
17 afraid. I don't have a record, a police record,
18 and I called, and I asked the lady, "Will there be
19 police officers there?" And she said no.

20 So I came down just to ask you,
21 please, legalize it for medical use because I lost,
22 from January until March, 65 pounds. I'm a big
23 person. I was bigger. I'm maintaining my weight
24 now at 275, and I have to be a criminal. I have to
25 go against the laws. I don't want to do that.

1 I've never done that. I'm a church-going person,
2 and I love the Lord. I don't want to do things
3 like that.

4 But I don't want the pain. I can't
5 take the pain. They told me if I get blocked up
6 again, I'll have to come in, and they'll have to
7 put hoses down my nose to suck the bile out of me,
8 and I can't go through that. I'm going to die
9 first. I won't go through that.

10 I beg of you from the bottom of my
11 heart to please understand this makes me feel
12 better. I don't have the pain, and I can eat some
13 food, and I don't throw up. Thank you. I'm sorry.

14 ~~LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker~~

15 No. 11?

16 JAMES BOETTCHER: Howdy. My name is
17 James Boettcher, last name B-o-e-t-t-c-h-e-r. Kind
18 of really don't know how to begin, but in coming,
19 didn't come with a speech prepared, so kind of
20 going to wing it.

21 2002 I joined the military. And in
22 2004 I was injured very severely and had to have my
23 spine fused together. I would take 12 different
24 medications while I was enlisted. Eight of those
25 would all be narcotics from morphine sulfates,

1 Valium, Hydrocodone, and the list kind of keeps
2 going on, Neurontin, stuff like that to control the
3 aftereffects, the pain from my surgery and my
4 fusion and whatnot.

5 And they finally retired me. I am on
6 what's called the TDRL, temporary disabled
7 retirement list. And in September, September 7
8 actually, that will be my five-year marker on TDRL,
9 and then they'll transfer me to permanent
10 retirement because of injuries and stuff that I
11 sustained while on active duty.

12 And when I was retired, I kept my
13 military benefits there, my insurance and whatnot,
14 and that has been what's -- what has helped me out
15 here from my retirement up until today because I
16 see the doctor quite often for my spinal problems
17 and whatnot and nerve damage I have inside my leg
18 and all the stuff that's transpired afterwards.

19 The guy that you see before you today
20 used to weigh 170 pounds. He's a 300-pound man
21 now, so that -- I've doubled in size, and I'm lucky
22 that I can still walk now.

23 After I came out of my surgery, I had
24 to relearn how to walk, clothe myself, and go to
25 the bathroom, if you want to talk about that. But

1 it changed me. Before my injury I never took any
2 narcotic medications or for pain control and
3 whatnot. The most potent you would get me would be
4 Tylenol or aspirin.

5 But I take these medications to feel
6 normal, feel well. Instead of concentrating very
7 hard on pain control so that I don't feel it as
8 often, these medications help to numb it away, but
9 from such long-term usage, I mean I take Fentanyl.
10 Most of you have heard about it, and like the news,
11 they're being recalled, but it's a patch that you
12 put on your skin, and it transfers your narcotics
13 directly through the skin. This way you don't have
14 to take pills all the time.

15 When you've started to feel the pain,
16 the pain is already there. You're just trying to
17 combat it, but at least with this transdermal-type
18 system, I don't have to worry about it for three
19 days, the usage and stuff.

20 But one day -- I want to say five
21 years after my fusion and whatnot -- I was in
22 discussions with my pain specialist at Mary Greeley
23 Medical Center there, and I wanted to know, what
24 are going to be the long-terms of me taking this?
25 Because I'm going to take pain medication for the

1 rest of my life. That's just something I'm going
2 to have to live with, be it opiates and muscle
3 relaxers and stuff like that to control the pain or
4 be it something like medical marijuana that's a
5 natural type. Just it grows naturally. What would
6 be the best for taking care of the pain?

7 And I asked him because I was starting
8 to pass proteins and stuff in my kidneys when I'd
9 go to the restroom and stuff. I did urinalysis,
10 and I was starting to pass proteins, and it was a
11 sign that my kidneys and liver were on the wavering
12 side there of not wanting to work anymore because
13 of all the drugs that have been pushed through it
14 here.

15 And he didn't know the answer to that
16 question of what's going to happen in the long
17 term? I mean I'm 31 years old now. When I was
18 disabled in -- I was 20 -- 25 or 26. So I've been
19 taking the narcotics since then. They're daily.

20 And I asked him what he would do. And
21 if this was California, he would just prescribe
22 medical marijuana for me, but it's not, and we went
23 with what pain medications that I have right now
24 and do the increases in dosage there as things have
25 permitted, like the Fentanyl patch that I just

1 showed, which is stuff that went from 75 to
2 100 micrograms just within the last month. And
3 just because of my body is getting used to the
4 drugs that I'm taking now, and they're opiates.

5 And I'm sure we're just going to keep
6 increasing, increasing, but if there's something
7 natural that's out there that's one I can't --
8 don't have to worry about there being a hole inside
9 the patch and having it pulled out and stuff there
10 and you could die because you get put on your
11 medications, like when I sit inside of a hot tub to
12 relieve the -- the muscles inside my back there, to
13 relieve that tightening there.

14 One thing I didn't know about, wearing
15 a duragesic, can't sit inside a hot tub because it
16 pumps medication directly into you right away
17 because you're sweating. But if there's something
18 natural out there and it could be tested, you know,
19 so forth there that could be legalized and either
20 be in the food form or smoked form or whatnot, I'd
21 like to try it and see if that will take away -- I
22 take five or six different narcotic medications
23 right now instead of the eleven that I was taking
24 before, but if I could take one substance that
25 would alleviate five different pills that I have to

1 take, I would -- I would very much appreciate that
2 and love to try it.

3 Before my injury, I would have been
4 one of the most stark people against marijuana
5 legalization, but I've seen both sides of it. Now
6 that I've been injured and know what it's like to
7 be in pain daily and know that this is probably
8 shortening my life, taking all the opiates that I'm
9 taking right now -- I mean I don't know what the
10 outcome is for lengthy long term, but having to
11 take them from age 25 on, I'm pretty sure that
12 shortens up the life span just a little bit.

13 So I thank you guys for listening to
14 me. And hopefully you guys will come to a good
15 conclusion.

16 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
17 No. 12.

18 TRACY MILLER: Hi. My name is Tracy
19 Miller, T-r-a-c-y M-i-l-l-e-r, and I live here in
20 Des Moines. I'm 55 years old, and as you've seen
21 from most people, you know, that have come up here
22 that have spoke on behalf their own health, not
23 16-year-old kids searching out, you know, illegal
24 drugs.

25 But I just -- I wrote this down, and I

1 might skip a little bit, so I'm going to try. But
2 I was diagnosed with a nervous stomach and a bowel
3 disorder when I was 17. And so they put me on
4 medication for that. And I was once very active.
5 Many injuries.

6 I have an anxiety disorder which was
7 diagnosed at the same time that I was diagnosed
8 with -- with a nervous stomach. And I was on Xanax
9 and pain meds and pain meds -- and medication for
10 constipation. And it was the '70s were happening,
11 and cannabis helped all of my symptoms a great
12 deal. It stopped my nausea and calmed my anxiety,
13 helped me with my pain.

14 ~~But the use of cannabis did not lead~~
15 me into other street drugs. It was not a gateway
16 drug. It was a drug that I used to help me. I
17 didn't use it recreationally and sit around with my
18 friends and -- it was a thing that I did by myself.

19 And it was illegal, and that
20 compromised my walk with the Lord because it was
21 illegal. It made me feel that I couldn't be in
22 church because I was using marijuana, and it was
23 illegal, so it was -- it was a very scary thing for
24 me to think that somebody from my church might find
25 out or being arrested and be on the front page

1 might find out, which happened on two occasions. I
2 was arrested. Put me through all of that, cost me
3 several thousand dollars to get through that and to
4 no avail.

5 It just was -- that was the way, and I
6 had to buy street drugs that I didn't know what
7 was -- the marijuana was even cured in. I didn't
8 know what it had in it which could have caused, you
9 know, many other health issues for me, and so that
10 was really scary.

11 But at 41 I was diagnosed with MS.
12 I'm currently on approximately ten different
13 medications, blood pressure, Tegretol, chronic pain
14 meds, methadone, Vicodin, stomach meds, bowel meds,
15 anxiety meds, and more.

16 I started using cannabis at 17. After
17 a while, after I got married and had my kids, I
18 stopped using it for eight years in the '80s, and I
19 started just using my pharmaceutical medication
20 because I was afraid, and I didn't want my kids to
21 know. I hid it very well.

22 But I started again in the '90s. Now
23 I've stopped using for approximately one and a half
24 years. When you're on pain meds and anxiety
25 medications, you sign a pain contract, and that

1 contract states that you cannot use illegal drugs
2 or you will lose your medication. And so that was
3 done. I had no other choice. I had to stop using
4 marijuana.

5 And then of course, all of the
6 physical symptoms, more nausea, taking more nausea
7 medication, more pain medication, more and more and
8 more, which enabled me to -- sorry -- it made it so
9 that I couldn't go out -- the numbers of pain
10 medications and anxiety medications to go out and
11 drive and be safe as I could with smoking marijuana
12 was a much safer alternative for me personally.

13 And like I said, you take a chance
14 with health issues on -- on marijuana that you buy

15 on the street. I only have one-half of one
16 functioning kidney. My sister's kidneys failed,
17 and I donated her one of my kidneys, and I trusted
18 God to take care of my other kidney. But I do only
19 have one-half of one functioning kidney.

20 And the amount of Tylenol that I have
21 to take that's in my -- my Vicodin, I barely make
22 it under the guidelines of how much Tylenol that I
23 should take in my body. So I try not to take so
24 many. Still hurts, and it still hurts a lot, even
25 when I take my pain medication. It doesn't keep it

1 away. It just helps me cope and just helps me to
2 try and just stay at a level where I can -- I can
3 do something.

4 As a wife and a mother, it was always
5 kept secret. My husband didn't know until later
6 on, and my children didn't know until they were
7 teens.

8 Legalizing marijuana for medical
9 purposes would help so many of my diseases and so
10 many of -- so many others. I would be able to
11 function so much better. I am disabled, and I am
12 on Social Security Disability, so I obviously
13 cannot work any longer because it's in my C5, and
14 so it has made it so that I can't use my hands.

15 I help with other friends that are
16 disabled. My husband is deceased now for just six
17 years, and my children are now grown, so I got a
18 dog so that I could get out, and I can walk, and so
19 now I can walk.

20 My pain medications, I just -- you
21 know, I just don't really take enough, but I know
22 I've got to get out and walk this dog, and so I
23 walk this dog, and I try not to be gone for more
24 than one hour because I take my medications that I
25 take at night, which are many, and they will cause

1 me to fall asleep after one hour. So I have to
2 make sure that I -- that I don't take them at a
3 time when I can get back home and I'm unable to
4 walk. So I do that.

5 But I truly believe that if you would
6 legalize medicinal marijuana for all who are coming
7 behind me and all -- everyone else that has spoken,
8 it would be -- it would be a wonderful thing for
9 us.

10 And I truly believe that vaporizing
11 cannabis is the best form of dosing. Smoking in
12 any form is bad for you. It's bad for your lungs.
13 It's not a healthy thing. It's more costly to
14 smoke marijuana, and it is so much more dangerous.

15 I raised my two children, and I even
16 homeschooled them while using marijuana. And my
17 children now know, and we talk about medical
18 issues, and they are 100 percent in agreement with
19 me that medical use of marijuana is the best thing
20 for everyone who has illnesses that it could help.

21 And I thank you all for being here,
22 and I thank you for hearing me.

23 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker

24 No. 13.

25 JESS TEPNER: Good afternoon. My name

1 is Jess Tepner, T-e-p-n-e-r. Let me see here.
 2 I've known George McMahon for -- God, 15-plus
 3 years. I seen him in a wheelchair. I seen him --
 4 his wife pushing him around, but today it looks
 5 like we're pushing her around but -- and I seen him
 6 from really doing nothing to where he can walk
 7 around. Not all the time but walk and ride the
 8 bike and that kind of stuff with it, with use of
 9 the marijuana and stuff, so if it does that to him,
 10 I think it's something that needs to be for medical
 11 use to other people.

12 I mean what I see in him, you know,
 13 but that's how -- that's all I have to say.

14 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
 15 No. 14.

16 RALPH SMITH: Members of the board,
 17 ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ralph Smith. I am
 18 an attorney. I represent a group called Patients
 19 Out of Time. We are an advocacy group for
 20 patients. We put on seminars for doctors and
 21 nurses.

22 Our first seminar was here at Iowa
 23 State in the year 2000, and since then, we have put
 24 on five -- we are getting ready to put on our sixth
 25 one. We also have put on seminars in Portland,

1 Charlottesville, Virginia, and two of them in
 2 California, and our sixth one is going to be in
 3 Rhode Island in April of next year.

4 You, members of the board, are just
 5 listening to a few stories from a few people. I
 6 have listened to thousands of stories. I have been
 7 involved with cannabis for -- and the law for
 8 40 years. I'm from your sister state, Nebraska,
 9 just on the other side of the river where we've had
 10 rather enlightened possession laws for that
 11 40 years.

12 We don't have a lot of problems in
 13 Nebraska. We have some with the federal
 14 government. But possession of marijuana in
 15 Nebraska is not a crime if it's less than an ounce,
 16 and until just this last year, possession of less
 17 than a pound has been punishable by a maximum of
 18 seven days in jail.

19 We, however, still have many patients
 20 who are adversely affected by the worst problem
 21 that marijuana has, and that is that you can go to
 22 jail. The -- the voices that I think that you
 23 should listen to are the voices of the literally --
 24 of those who literally have millions of hours of
 25 unnecessary human suffering.

1 The problem with cannabis is not that
 2 it's -- whether or not it's good for you. The
 3 problem is that it's probably too good. It might
 4 put a good portion of the people involved with
 5 profiting from some -- from it being illegal out of
 6 business. That includes the prison industry, maybe
 7 a good portion of pharmacists, and I just can't
 8 begin to name those who profit in the millions of
 9 dollars that they gather in the profiting of it
 10 being illegal.

11 But if you heard the just thousands of
 12 stories that I've heard, they mirror the ones that
 13 you're starting to listen to today, and after a
 14 while, I think you'll understand that it helps
 15 people on almost all levels, whether or not they
 16 have a menstrual cramp or they have some terrible
 17 cancer or some other kind of problem. And after
 18 you look at it from, I think, a fair perspective, I
 19 think you'll come up with the conclusion that you
 20 have to do something.

21 There is just too much unnecessary
 22 suffering, and those voices will scream loud in the
 23 night if you don't do what you should do.

24 I'm hoping that we will open up a good
 25 dialogue with you. We are going to submit to you

1 in writing and electronically scientific studies.
 2 We have literally captured in our five conferences
 3 the majority of the top researchers around the
 4 country and outside of the country.

5 We have most of them videotaped, and
 6 we have those available and will submit them all to
 7 you, and I would very much appreciate any comments
 8 or questions that you might have for me. I'd be
 9 happy to talk with you about it, and I can -- we
 10 could literally talk for hours and days.

11 So that's really all I have to say,
 12 but I would, like I say, welcome any questions that
 13 you have.

14 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. As we go
 15 forward, we probably will have some questions for
 16 you.

17 RALPH SMITH: Thank you, gentlemen and
 18 folks.

19 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Okay.
 20 Speaker No. 15.

21 JEFF: Hi. My name is Speaker No. 15.
 22 My name is Jeff. And I have a lowly little
 23 master's degree in psychology, so you probably
 24 heard from folks with a lot bigger credentials than
 25 mine. I'm assuming you folks have some background

1 in pharmacology?

2 So you probably know that not all
3 drugs are created equal. Some are more harmful.
4 Some are more addicting. Some are more dangerous
5 because of their overdose potential. Most have
6 some sort of side effect, and some drugs have a
7 psychoactive effect.

8 Marijuana is not particularly harmful.
9 It isn't addicting. Nobody has ever died from an
10 overdose. It does have a psychoactive effect. But
11 it also has a side effect, which is why I'm here.
12 Marijuana suppresses nausea. This is -- this is
13 common knowledge at this point. I don't know if
14 any more research needs to be done on this, but if
15 for no other reason than that, please try to be
16 objective and get past some of the hysteria that
17 has accompanied marijuana throughout the years.

18 Oh, God, I remember when they told us
19 that marijuana would cause hallucinosis, psychosis.
20 It would cause males to grow breasts. They tried
21 to say all sorts of things about marijuana over the
22 years.

23 But it does suppress nausea. And if
24 you've ever watched somebody you love go through
25 radiation and chemo, the idea of withholding this

1 If there is a drug out there that will
2 help people to feel better, then I am of the view I
3 don't see why people should not be given a chance
4 to take the drug. Yes, I realize there are aspects
5 with marijuana, and that is another issue.

6 But I am asking you, please try to
7 craft something to give people who are ill, people
8 who need to take medical marijuana for whatever
9 condition, for whatever illness, please try to come
10 up with something so that they are able to take it.

11 If you can do that and to help
12 alleviate human suffering, then you truly, truly
13 would have performed a miracle for those people.
14 Thank you.

15 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
16 No. 17.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Peace, Reverend.
18 TERRY MITCHELL: My name is Terry
19 Mitchell, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l. I'm all the hell my
20 mama ever raised.

21 And I've got degenerative disk disease
22 in my back. Depending on how long it's been since
23 I had cannabis, I either don't need this cane at
24 all and I can work my butt off or I'll walk around
25 looking like a gorilla with my knuckles dragging

1 antinausea drug is absurd. It's kind of like
2 worrying about your slip showing as you run from a
3 burning building. Try to be reasonable about this.
4 I don't know. How long do I have to speak?

5 DEBBIE JORGENSON: You have eight more
6 minutes.

7 JEFF: I'll go faster than that. Oh,
8 I guess that about covers it. Thanks for
9 listening.

10 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
11 No. 16.

12 ELIZABETH ANDERSON: My name is
13 Elizabeth Anderson, E-l-i-z-a-b-e-t-h, Anderson,
14 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I live in Johnston.

15 My perspective on this issue may be
16 different from some. My father was a doctor,
17 general practitioner in Des Moines, and he is now
18 deceased. And so I am aware of the importance of
19 the Board of Pharmacy Examiners.

20 Now, years ago I thought -- years ago
21 I thought about becoming a doctor. In the
22 Hippocratic oath, which is terribly important to
23 doctors, the doctors exhorted to always help the
24 patient, if possible, to heal. That, my father
25 translated to me.

1 the ground because I just can't stand up straight.
2 Today I'd probably stand six-one. Full height, I'm
3 six-four, but I can't do that.

4 Because the medication that I can use,
5 I get it in spurts. People come over and visit,
6 and they bring me a little, and that manages to
7 keep me going. I can't afford it. Disability
8 don't pay enough.

9 And -- oh, the heck with me. I'm up
10 here to talk about the literally hundreds of people
11 that don't come to the rally every year because "My
12 boss might see me on TV. He might know that I go
13 home at night and smoke a joint because my back is
14 sore from busting my butt all day." Excuse my
15 language, but I get wired.

16 Somebody said something about
17 Reverend. Well, they call me Reverend Reefer
18 because there's so many different uses for the
19 cannabis plant. It's hard for me to zero in on
20 just one.

21 But for medical purposes, I don't
22 know. Literally -- I've had literally thousands of
23 people that have come up and told me "Yeah, I used
24 to be a drunk. I used to beat up on the old lady.
25 Now I'm working a job. I go home. I relax. I

1 take off a little pain from the day by smoking a
2 dcob or smoking a bowl."

3 Now, we've already determined that the
4 smoking part is not good. It's no better than
5 cigarettes except cigarettes are tar-based and
6 cannabis is oil-based, and I think that has a lot
7 to do with the differences, but the fact is there
8 are literally thousands of people -- I pass out
9 these little cards, says "If you want true answers
10 to questions about cannabis, give me a call."

11 And I have literally received hundreds
12 of calls. Most of them were smart-alecks. "Hey,
13 where can I get some smoke, man?"

14 But I don't even -- I don't even toy
15 with them people. I say "If you've got intelligent
16 questions, I want to hear them" because I've
17 studied this plant for the last 15 years. It's the
18 only thing that gives me relief.

19 They have tried everything up to
20 Hydrocodone 7.5s for my back. All they do is make
21 me feel very unsafe driving. And they got to where
22 the prescribed amount wasn't enough. And anytime
23 I'm using the prescribed medications, I've got to
24 use this (indicating) because my knee is subject to
25 lock out on me at any time. When my back stabs me,

1 my knees buckle. Down I go. Cannabis don't do
2 that.

3 I worked for seven years because I
4 couldn't actually hold a job because you've got to
5 twiddle in a cup for somebody, so I scrapped metal
6 for seven years, and that's -- that's a bust-tail
7 job in anybody's book.

8 And -- but the cannabis let me do it
9 by -- just like you'd prescribe a medication to
10 somebody, you take this much three, four times a
11 day or as needed, the same way with the cannabis.
12 My back would get to aching. I'd take two or three
13 hits. Not enough to get stoned but just enough so

14 that it worked and let me go back to work.

15 I don't like being on disability. I'd
16 like to go back to work. If you all could help me,
17 I'd sure appreciate it, and I know a lot of other
18 people in this same boat, a lot of other people.

19 And as far as the gateway drug
20 business, I've helped a whole lot of people get off
21 the hard drugs by prescribing cannabis. It helps.
22 All I can do is like everybody else out here, ask
23 you, help us out, will you? We need it. We don't
24 necessarily want it, but we need it.

25 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker

1 No. 18.

2 ADDY: My last name is Addy, A-d-d-y.
3 I'm a retired physician, and I have to say that
4 I -- if I -- if I were to have taken notes, I would
5 reiterate what our vascular surgeon said earlier
6 because I have had obviously similar experiences as
7 he.

8 I always -- but I'm not going to
9 reiterate what he said to you. You heard him. But
10 I'll double it. The chronic pain patients that I
11 always saw, that I used to see, I always worried
12 about them because I knew that we weren't really
13 helping them with the Percocets and Percodans and
14 all of that kind of stuff.

15 And I always worried because I thought
16 are they hoarding because -- because they're not
17 really getting much relief? Or is some of their
18 medication being diverted and -- and that kind of
19 thing? And I wish, hearing these people here
20 today, that I would have had this in my armarium
21 to have offered them. The antidotes that I've
22 heard today are very interesting and moving, and I
23 just thank you for all of these stories. It's
24 given me a different view of this -- this thing.

25 And if I were to make a

1 recommendation, I would say you should listen to
2 some of them as far as the modes of entry or
3 whatever, smoking and the vaporization. I have no
4 idea about that kind of stuff, but I will educate
5 myself, and I think it obviously should be
6 rescheduled. If these are the only people who need
7 it, that's enough. Thank you.

8 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. Speaker
9 No. 19. No. 19? Is No. 20 here?

10 TRESA RAMSBOTTOM: My name is Tresa
11 Ramsbottom. Do you need me to spell that?
12 T-r-e-s-a, last name is R-a-m-s-b-o-t-t-o-m. And I
13 live here in Des Moines.

14 ~~And I didn't plan on coming to speak.~~

15 I just was going to sit, but I have -- in '92 I
16 was in a -- I rolled my van. My van landed on top
17 of me, and I got cracked vertebrae in my neck and
18 back. They're deteriorating, and they need
19 replacement, and they tell me I'm too young for a
20 replacement. They told me that five years ago.

21 I have diabetes. I'm supposed to eat
22 right. I can't eat unless I smoke. I'm nauseated.
23 It takes all that away. Takes my pain away. I'm
24 prescribed Vicodin. It helps some. They give me
25 120 a month. It's not enough for my pain.

1 And I just -- like I said, I'm
2 nauseated every morning. I get up in the middle of
3 the night. It's easier to light a joint, take a
4 couple hits, and go back to sleep than to get in my
5 purse or my side, get up and get something to drink
6 and take a pill. It's easier. Just have problems
7 sleeping, so I smoke to go to sleep.

8 And that's -- you know, there's a lot
9 of people. I had a friend that had cancer, and her
10 dad had cancer. They smoked. Both dead now, but
11 they smoked, and it helped them.

12 And that's basically all I have to
13 say. Thank you.

14 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you. No. 21?

15 TINA GROVER: Hi. I'm just here to
16 read a letter my mom wrote. She's sorry she
17 couldn't make it today.

18 LLOYD JESSEN: Can you give us your
19 name or your mom's name?

20 TINA GROVER: My mom is Tina Grover,
21 G-r-o-v-e-r.

22 Okay. During the year of 2008, I was
23 placed in charge of the care of my mother whom I
24 cared for under hospice conditions due to her
25 terminal illness. I have seen firsthand the

1 ravages of cancer, the excruciating pain and long
2 nights when pain medicine would do no good.

3 I witnessed firsthand the negative and
4 withering effects of chemotherapy and radiation on
5 my mother's appetite. We followed all treatment
6 options and pain management, but the management of
7 her pain was anything but that, I assure you. She
8 was dying.

9 We were informed two months after the
10 removal of a 22-pound tumor on her ovary that
11 another had grown back in its place and had spread
12 to her liver, lungs, et cetera. At this point, it
13 was an attempt to keep her comfortable. Upon one
14 of the many visits to her doctor for a treatment

15 checkup, I inquired about a prescription for the
16 use of medicinal marijuana for my mother.

17 I was stunned to find that it was
18 illegal in the state of Iowa. I asked the doctor
19 if there were -- if there were a possibility of
20 taking my mother to a doctor in a state that it was
21 legal just to obtain the -- just to obtain the
22 prescription.

23 I was then informed that even with a
24 prescription that as soon as we entered back into
25 Iowa that legal -- that that legal prescription

1 would become illegal.

2 I then asked her if there would be any
3 adverse side effects from any of the current
4 treatments or medications that was -- that she was
5 on if she were to take it. She stated that there
6 would be no adverse side effects that she knew of
7 other than the sleepiness, increased appetite,
8 forgetfulness, and the possibility of a feeling of
9 paranoia if took -- if too much was consumed at
10 once.

11 I was told off the record to make sure
12 it was in small quantities until we knew how it
13 would affect her. I am not a drug user, have never
14 been arrested, nor do I have any interest in
15 marijuana becoming available to the public for
16 recreational use. However, after expounding all
17 pain relief and appetite-inducing options, I was
18 willing to do anything to help her; yes, even risk
19 breaking the law.

20 I obtained a small amount of marijuana
21 for her to try. Upon her first time using it, her
22 pain was decreased, and she was sleepy but stayed
23 awake. She lasted longer by taking one puff off a
24 marijuana cigarette between the times that she
25 would need her pain medicine.

1 She said that it would greatly -- that
2 it greatly relieved her pain and did not increase
3 her appetite, but it did take away the nausea,
4 allowing her the simple pleasure of the urge to
5 eat. She also said she felt less clouded in her
6 head since she was able to go longer without
7 feeling the need to take her pain medicine.

8 I understand that drug use is against
9 the law as well as it should be. However, making
10 it allowable for medicinal reasons seems quite
11 appropriate since I have seen its attributes.

12 I have asked God to forgive -- I've
13 asked God's forgiveness for the law that I broke,
14 and I think that he understands since my heart was
15 in the right place. I hope and pray none of you
16 listening to this today have to see what limits
17 you're willing to go to if you're forced to watch a
18 fellow loved one suffer.

19 If you are, I believe that you will do
20 just as I did and turn heaven and earth -- turn to
21 heaven and earth to see that they are made
22 comfortable in their last days. I do hope that you
23 will consider my testimony since my mother is not
24 here any longer to give hers.

25 Please consider the suffering that