

1 "Yeah, sure, if it works for you, you know, try  
2 it." But there's no way that they would, like,  
3 write a script for it or anything, even if it meant  
4 to get medical marijuana from California or  
5 something.

6 In terms of being worried about the  
7 reputation, I think that's probably one of the main  
8 concerns, main reasons why you don't have a whole  
9 lot of physicians here, which is sad, but I would  
10 like to -- I would like you guys to take that into  
11 consideration too when you look at, like, the  
12 audience that shows up.

13 In terms of the benefits, both from  
14 specific active ingredients and marijuana overall,  
15 it certainly is very hard to study these  
16 considering it's illegal, so you know, looking at  
17 some of the studies that were done outside of this  
18 country, it definitely looks like there's some  
19 promise there, including studies comparing, for  
20 example, cancer risks of marijuana compared to  
21 tobacco, which from what I found so far, it does  
22 not seem that marijuana is actually causing lung  
23 cancer when comparing it to placebo and compared to  
24 tobacco which increased it by eight times in the  
25 particular study that I was looking at it, which I

1 will forward to you as well.

2 The -- let's see. Another issue with  
3 the whole pain and depression that are often -- you  
4 get those a lot type of deal, but that's something  
5 that marijuana can help with. But depression pain  
6 also lead to the lack of desire to live.

7 I've seen it plenty of times myself  
8 that folks who just -- you know, if you lose the  
9 desire to live because you're constantly in pain,  
10 it's -- it gets tough. The going gets tough, and  
11 medical marijuana, for example, would be one thing  
12 that would help with a number of respects, not just  
13 the pain, but it could also uplift the mood and

14 increase the desire to live, which especially in  
15 hospice, I think, would help individuals with their  
16 end stage of life, instead of just wanting to die,  
17 actually trying to get out of life still what you  
18 can.

19 When taking a look at the different  
20 drugs that are under Schedule I, II, III, IV, and V  
21 from the DEA, I had actually written out a couple  
22 of these. When we look at -- marijuana is  
23 Schedule I, which supposedly has no medical use.  
24 Even on Schedule II we find things like opium,  
25 cocaine, morphine, as well as the Oxys, OxyContin

1 which has been abused quite a bit and has gotten a  
2 bad rap even though it helps a lot of people with  
3 severe pain.

4 On Schedule III we're even looking at  
5 ketamine or Special K which I did not know there  
6 was much medical benefit for that kind of drug, but  
7 if you think about the stuff that supposedly makes  
8 you see God is a Schedule III drug and medical  
9 marijuana is a Schedule I, you just start to  
10 wonder.

11 In addition, on Schedule III, we also  
12 have LSD precursors, and on Schedule IV, which is  
13 even further down the list, we have things like  
14 Valium, Xanax, Ambien, drugs that can make -- cause  
15 addiction or dependency behavior, which I'm sure --  
16 well, that is one of the issues that you guys are  
17 looking into, is the whole, you know, addictiveness  
18 of marijuana and how that will play into, you know,  
19 society in prescribing these medical marijuana.

20 But just taking a look at this, it  
21 definitely appears to me that drugs that are  
22 prescribed legally without much difficulties  
23 definitely share this whole issue of dependency.

24 And last but not least, current issue,  
25 the whole Gardasil shots that we give to, like,

1 11-year-olds, a very understudied drug before it  
2 came out. It kills people. I mean when we take a  
3 look at, you know, we base the life of millions of  
4 11- to 16-, 18-year-old girls on a study that was  
5 done with 1,200 people, and you know, that's all  
6 okay, I think medical marijuana deserves another  
7 look at the possibility of, you know, giving people  
8 help and hope. Thank you.

9 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you.

10 DEBBIE JORGENSEN: This gentleman.

11 LLOYD JESSEN: Oh, sure.

12 CHRIS HANSON: Is there a line or --

13 LLOYD JESSEN: No. You're next.

14 DEBBIE JORGENSEN: Could you state  
15 your name and spell it for the reporter there?

16 CHRIS HANSON: My name is Chris  
17 Hanson, C-h-r-i-s H-a-n-s-o-n.

18 What a democracy. I just walked in  
19 off the street and get right up to the mic. I  
20 appreciate you listening to me.

21 I broke my back when I was 16 years  
22 old. I had a fusion surgery. And since then, I've  
23 recovered. But still to this day, I suffer from  
24 chronic pain on a daily basis.

25 I practice yoga. I eat healthy. I've

1 seen physical therapists. I've tried medications,  
2 and with the medications I've found that there are  
3 very bad drawbacks. They make me extremely tired,  
4 these muscle relaxers and pain relievers. They  
5 make me want to go to sleep all day. They make me  
6 bleed internally. It fills my stomach with blood,  
7 and it is, as you can imagine, very uncomfortable.  
8 So I don't necessarily take them as I probably  
9 should.

10 If I don't take them, I suffer with  
11 pain, and if I do, I find that the drawbacks are  
12 sometimes more uncomfortable than the pain. I  
13 simply ask that you legalize the use of medical  
14 marijuana so that I can at least have a  
15 conversation with my doctors to look into something  
16 else that doesn't necessarily have the drawbacks of  
17 the medications that I'm used to.

18 I guess I wasn't as prepared as the  
19 gentleman before me. That's really all I have to  
20 say, and I thank you for your time.

21 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you.

22 BOARD MEMBER BENJAMIN: Lloyd is going  
23 to be coming back in a little bit, but if you want  
24 to come up and introduce yourself, we'll go ahead  
25 and take whatever statement you have and --

1 DEBBIE JORGENSON: And if you would  
2 state your name and spell it for the record.

3 STEVE MELBOSTAD: You bet. My name is  
4 Steve Melbostad, M-e-l-b-o-s-t-a-d. I was born in  
5 Des Moines in 1968, went to Western Hills  
6 Elementary School in West Des Moines. I went to  
7 Indian Hills Junior High School and Valley High  
8 School, graduated in 1986.

9 I'm 41 years old. I went to the  
10 University of California Berkeley where I studied  
11 history, including American history, and part of my  
12 history studies was of drug prohibition and the  
13 history of that and the outrageousness of its  
14 history.

15 I then went on to the University of  
16 Iowa College of Law where I graduated in 1994. So  
17 as a student of history and a student of law, I am  
18 a concerned citizen about this issue. I am so  
19 grateful to you guys for having public hearings  
20 about this issue because I think it's very  
21 important.

22 I was planning on having a speech  
23 prepared, but I don't, so this is just off the  
24 cuff. But I have strong emotions about this on a  
25 couple of levels.

1 On a medical level I want to testify  
2 that I know people with medical issues like anxiety  
3 and nausea and panic attacks that they've tried all  
4 the antidepressants, Lexapro, Zoloft, Klonopin, and  
5 they find that marijuana works best for keeping  
6 them calm, having them have an adequate appetite.

7 Marijuana helps for people who -- who  
8 lose appetite like me. You know, I take  
9 antidepressants, and they help make it possible  
10 that I can eat a meal every day. I know for some  
11 people that marijuana helps better to control their  
12 appetite or keep up their appetite.

13 I also know I have friends that  
14 experience anxiety, panic attacks, and they -- you  
15 know, they're given drugs, Klonopin, Zoloft,  
16 Lexapro. They're given drugs to help them control  
17 their anxiety and help them live normal lives.

18 Marijuana is one option, and I know  
19 that -- from experience that it helps. It acts in  
20 the same way as -- as -- as many of these  
21 antidepressants and antianxiety drugs work. It  
22 calms people. It helps them keep up their appetite  
23 so they can eat a meal every day, which is a big  
24 deal. And I know from experience, it's an  
25 important medicine for some people.

1 Now, for a lot of people, it's just a  
2 recreational drug that they use to get high and  
3 have fun like alcohol, and I'm not advocating the  
4 use of marijuana in that way, but I'm so pleased  
5 that the pharmacy board has conducted these  
6 hearings to hear from us Iowans about our  
7 experiences with marijuana and people that use  
8 marijuana.

9 I think -- I don't want to insult  
10 anyone on the board here, but I did read in the  
11 Des Moines Register a quote about, well, if --  
12 if -- you know, comparing other states that have  
13 legalized medical marijuana, there was a quote  
14 something to the effect of, "Well, my dad told me  
15 if we all -- you know, if my friends told me to  
16 jump off a bridge, you know, should I do it just  
17 because everyone else is doing it?"

18 And I was really offended by that  
19 quote. To suggest that the states that have  
20 legalized medical marijuana are jumping off a  
21 bridge and committing suicide is ridiculous.

22 I would suggest that the states that  
23 have legalized medical marijuana are actually the  
24 leaders in a progressive, more intelligent future  
25 for the United States and that the ones that don't

1 based on the ridiculous history of the  
2 criminalization of marijuana are in the backwaters  
3 of history.

4 So you couldn't -- you could as board  
5 members be at the forefront of a progressive  
6 movement that is going to win out in the end or you  
7 can kick and scream and complain about we should  
8 just stick to how things are done in the past.

9 I hope that you don't do that. I hope  
10 that there is an open-mindedness to the use of  
11 marijuana as a medicinal medicine for nausea, for  
12 anxiety, for a lot of things.

13 The -- as a student of the law, the  
14 history of the criminalization of marijuana is  
15 wrought with racism and bigotry and ignorance.  
16 It's a scandal.

17 We expend enormous resources hunting  
18 down and locking up marijuana users, and it is the  
19 most scandalous waste of resources that I have seen  
20 in the 20th century. We're in the 21st century  
21 now, so we need to open up our eyes and look at it  
22 closely.

23 I will defer to all of the experts on  
24 marijuana as -- for medicinal purposes. I know of  
25 many. I've seen it. And I would just encourage

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SueAnn Jones, Certified Shorthand  
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of  
Iowa, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a  
true and accurate computer-aided transcription of  
the public hearing as taken stenographically by and  
before me at the time and place indicated on the  
title page;

That I am neither a relative nor employee  
nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to  
this action, and that I am not financially  
interested in the action.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUEANN JONES, CSR, RPR

1 the board to, you know, have an open mind about it.

2 Thank you. I just -- I want to again  
3 say I am so impressed that you guys had these  
4 hearings, and I'm so grateful that I was able to  
5 come down and speak my mind about this issue.  
6 Thank you.

7 LLOYD JESSEN: Thank you.  
8 (Public Meeting concluded at  
9 7:00 p.m.)

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