

130 E Aurora Ave
Des Moines, IA 50313-3654
February 22, 2017

Brad Zaun
7032 Holcomb Ave
Urbandale, IA 50322

Dear Sen. Zaun,

I am writing regarding SF 282, an Act relating to the medical use of cannabidiol including the rescheduling of a cannabidiol investigational product approved as a prescription drug medication under federal law.

I believe it is unnecessary to instruct the Iowa Board of Pharmacy to schedule a product before it is known whether the product will be approved by the FDA and the DEA, and before it is known what schedule, if any, that product might be placed in by the FDA and the DEA.

I have asked the Iowa Board of Pharmacy to review SF 282 at their next meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. I am attaching my letters to the Iowa Board of Pharmacy for your review.

Please amend the bill by striking the language about scheduling.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carl Olsen
515-343-9933
carl-olsen@mchsi.com

February 19, 2017
130 E Aurora Ave
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654

Andrew Funk, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Pharmacy
400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite E
Des Moines, IA 50309-4688

Dear Mr. Funk,

SF 282 was recently filed in the Iowa legislature and section 1 does not make sense.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf282>

Section 1 says the Iowa Board of Pharmacy will reclassify cannabidiol, but only if cannabidiol is placed in federal schedule 2.

The first issue is that no one knows whether cannabidiol will be federally scheduled.

The second issue is that if cannabidiol is federally scheduled, no one knows whether federal schedule 2 will be the schedule cannabidiol is placed in.

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy already makes recommendations that generally follow federal scheduling. The board is not required by state law to follow federal scheduling. Even in the single instance where the state law says the board must react to federal scheduling of a new substance that has never been previously scheduled, state law requires the board to make an independent decision on whether to follow federal scheduling.

Iowa Code § 124.201(4) (2017):

If any new substance is designated as a controlled substance under federal law and notice of the designation is given to the board, the board shall similarly designate as controlled the new substance under this chapter after the expiration of thirty days from publication in the Federal Register of a final order designating a new substance as a controlled substance, unless within that thirty-day period the board objects to the new designation. In that case the board shall publish the reasons for objection and afford all interested parties an opportunity to be heard. At the conclusion of the hearing the board shall announce its decision. Upon publication of objection to a new substance being designated as a controlled substance under this chapter by the board, control under this chapter is stayed until the board publishes its decision. If a substance is designated as controlled by the board under this paragraph the control shall be temporary and if within sixty days after the next regular session of the general assembly convenes it has not made the corresponding changes in this chapter, the temporary designation of control of the substance by the board shall be nullified.

I spoke with Congressman Young and Senator Whitver about this SF 282 on Friday morning and I suggested to them that SF 282 should be amended if it is going to move forward. I live in Senator Whitver's district.

I would appreciate it if the board would consider SF 282 and request an amendment that would remove any language forcing the Iowa Board of Pharmacy to adopt federal scheduling decisions. The board has not shown any pattern of ignoring federal scheduling decisions that would warrant corrective action.

I realize the board did recommend the reclassification of marijuana in 2010, and the reclassification of cannabidiol in 2015, but the board exercised its independent authority, given to it by our legislature in 1971, to consider scheduling independently of federal scheduling. The board reached these independent conclusions after careful consideration.

A total of forty-four states have now enacted medical marijuana laws or laws legalizing cannabidiol, so the board's decisions not to follow federal schedule decisions are justified. These decisions are consistent with the huge majority of state laws.

Congress has obviously seen merit in leaving these decisions to the states.

As long as Congress has not pre-empted state controlled substances acts, the board should retain its independent authority to make schedule decisions, which was clearly the intent of our legislature in enacting this law in 1971, 1971 Acts, Chapter 148 (SF 1) (March 5, 1971).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carl Olsen
130 E Aurora Ave
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654
515-343-9933
carl-olsen@mchsi.com

February 20, 2017
130 E Aurora Ave
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654

Andrew Funk, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Pharmacy
400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite E
Des Moines, IA 50309-4688

Dear Mr. Funk,

Thank you for responding to my letter of February 19, 2017, regarding SF 282.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=sf282>

I would like the pharmacy board to review the legislation (SF 282) and take a position in favor, again, or neutral on section 1 of the bill.

Of course, if the board wishes, it can take a position on sections 2 and 3 of the bill as well (although I don't think those two sections are controversial).

I would like to have notice in advance of the meeting so I can make arrangements with my employer to attend.

I really don't anticipate speaking on this.

I think my letter speaks for itself.

I'm just interested in hearing the board's thoughts.

In the meantime, the formal letter I sent you yesterday is a good tool for me to use in talking with legislators (so it serves a purpose).

Both Congressman Young and Senator Whitver thought the bill was directed at the cannabidiol product, Epidiolex.

Since I am aware of Epidiolex, that does seem possible. However, I was unaware that the DEA had already decided what schedule it will be in.

Please send me whatever information you have that predetermines the schedule Epidiolex will be placed in by the DEA. I have not seen that before.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carl Olsen
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