

Iowans for Medical Marijuana, P.O. Box 4091, Des Moines, IA 50333
<http://petition.iowamedicalmarijuana.org/>

November 9, 2010

Lloyd Jessen, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Pharmacy
400 S.W. Eighth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-4688

Dear Mr. Jessen,

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy has done some wonderful work over the past 16 months and we are grateful to you and your staff as well as each of the members of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy.

Iowans for Medical Marijuana now asks the Iowa Board of Pharmacy to pre-file legislation for the 84th Iowa General Assembly that would remove marijuana from Schedule I of the Iowa Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Iowa Code § 124.204(4)(m).

Removing marijuana from Schedule I would not make it available for medical use by patients. Opium poppies and coca leaves are in Schedule II, Iowa Code §§ 124.206(c) and 124.206(d), and neither of those plants are available for medical use by patients.

In November of 2009, the American Medical Association recommended removing marijuana from Schedule I: "The future of cannabinoid-based medicine lies in the rapidly evolving field of botanical drug substance development, as well as the design of molecules that target various aspects of the endocannabinoid system. To the extent that rescheduling marijuana out of Schedule I will benefit this effort, such a move can be supported."

Removing marijuana from Schedule I will not cost the state anything. Without legislation creating a program to make marijuana available for use by patients, removing marijuana from Schedule I simply recognizes marijuana's medical value, exactly the same way Schedule II recognizes the medical value of opium poppies and coca leaves.

Iowans for Medical Marijuana, P.O. Box 4091, Des Moines, IA 50333
<http://petition.iowamedicalmarijuana.org/>

It would be a mistake for the board to condition the scheduling of marijuana on the creation of a program to manufacture and distribute marijuana for exactly the same reason the American Medical Association points out. Current scheduling of marijuana makes it difficult to do the research that is so badly needed.

Please pre-file legislation that would remove marijuana from Schedule I. Please do not condition your recommendation on the Iowa Legislature creating a program to make marijuana available to medical patients. The classification of opium poppies and coca leaves in Schedule II is not conditional on making them available to medical patients.

Whatever your decision may be, know that Iowans for Medical Marijuana appreciates the work you do and the work you have done for us. We will always remember you in our hearts and in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Carl Olsen, Director
Iowans for Medical Marijuana
Post Office Box 4091
Des Moines, Iowa 50333
515-288-5798 home phone
515-343-9933 cell phone