



**Illinois
Cannabis
Patients
Association**

Illinois Cannabis Patients Association
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In support of Senate Bill 1381

Dear Illinois State Representative,

I am Dr. Margaret Millar. I graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, and I am board certified in family and sports medicine. I have practiced medicine in Illinois for over 20 years, and my practice currently serves about 5,000 patients. I write in support of Senate Bill 1381, allowing the medicinal use of cannabis.

The number one cause of death for our young people ages 14-26 is now overdose, surpassing even car accidents. The overwhelming majority of these are due to the increasing use and abuse of prescription pain and anxiety medications. I recently lost a patient in this way, and cringe that my tools for helping are resulting in this sad outcome. I need options other than narcotics to help patients with chronic non-terminal pain.

I personally have two different medical problems that have been extremely frustrating to manage: peripheral neuropathy and spinal stenosis. Seizure medications like Neurontin helped, but caused a brain fog that made it difficult to work. I use yoga, massage, acupuncture, Tramadol, and an occasional dose of cannabis for these conditions. It works well for me and for many of my patients who would otherwise not find relief. But I fear that my professional license could be in jeopardy if this were widely known — all for a treatment option that is safer than Tylenol.

Doctors should be able to recommend safe, effective medicines for their patients without fear that their patients will face arrest or jail for choosing a treatment which works best for them, and that is what S. B. 1381 would allow.

As a physician, I urge you to support S.B. 1381. I would happily speak with you via phone, or in person, about this vitally important piece of legislation.

Yours truly,

Margaret Millar, M.D.
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The Illinois Cannabis Patients Association – because patients are not criminals