



**CANNABIS
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COALITION**

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MARCH 5, 2010

Medical Quality Assurance Commission
PO Box 47866
Olympia, WA 98504-7866

The Cannabis Defense Coalition hereby petitions the Medical Quality Assurance Commission and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery to add neuropathic pain to the list of conditions qualifying to use medical marijuana under RCW 69.51A.

Credible research indicates that use of medicinal cannabis is an effective treatment for neuropathic pain. We submit this petition because there is sufficient evidence to support this indication for medicinal cannabis use. Adding it will help neuropathic pain patients receive this treatment, especially those who are presently excluded by the "intractable pain" requirement that a patient has tried and failed all other standard treatments or medications before being allowed the therapeutic benefits of this cannabinoid-based medicine and the legal protections of our medical marijuana law.

We recognize that intractable pain is already covered by RCW 69.51A, and that many neuropathic pain patients qualify under the intractable pain clause. We are specifically applying for neuropathic pain without the requirement that a patient have exhausted all other standard treatments or medications. Multiple sclerosis and epilepsy are two neurological conditions that do not require patients to have exhausted the complete realm of standard medical treatments before they can qualify to use medicinal cannabis. We petition for neuropathic pain to be treated in the same way.

Cannabis Defense Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit member cooperative focused on marijuana activism in Washington State. Much more info is available online at www.cdc.coop.

We have included three positive double blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials of cannabis in the treatment of neuropathic pain, and a review article for the treatment of neuropathic pain with cannabinoids. We have also included a report from the University of California Center for Medical Cannabis Research of their most recent legislatively mandated research, which includes discussion of the evidence supporting the treatment of neuropathic pain with cannabis, to support our petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sunil Aggarwal, PhD, MD-C
Cannabis Defense Coalition

Encl:

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2. Ellis R, Toperoff W, Vaida F, van den Brande G, Gonzales J, Gouaux B, Bentley H, Atkinson JH. Smoked Medicinal Cannabis for Neuropathic Pain in HIV: A Randomized, Crossover Clinical Trial. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 2008. 34(3): 672-680.
3. Wilsey B, Marcotte T, Tsodikov A, Millman J, Bentley H, Gouaux B, Fishman S. April 2008 A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Trial of Cannabis Cigarettes in Neuropathic Pain. *Journal of Pain*, 9 (6); 506-521.
4. Rahn EJ and Hohmann AG. Cannabinoids as Pharmacotherapies for Neuropathic Pain: From the Bench to the Bedside. *Neurotherapeutics*, 2009. 7:4, 713-737.
5. "Report to the Legislature and Governor of the State of California presenting findings pursuant to SB847 which created the CMCR and provided state funding." Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research. Prepared February 11, 2010. University of California. Available online: http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR_REPORT_FEB17.pdf.

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