

January 19, ~~2010~~, 2010
Hon. Wayne Kuipers, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Committee Members

My name is George Schneider,

I oppose Senate bill 616-618 which would do little to help our states commerce and economy. I see small businesses as well as independent Caregivers and patients, taken over by big corporations that will create few jobs that Michigan communities need for growth of income and commerce. Limiting this new industry to 10 large companies is short sighted; with small businesses leading the economic growth, revenues and job creation would be much greater for the state with small enterprising businesses. This will not happen with allowing just 10 large companies to provide this service.

What of those smaller and up coming business owners financially vested into this new industry? We here in Michigan need to see change and we voted overwhelming to make changes. Here stands a new industry supported and passed by the voters. We are doctors, lawyers, blue collar, white collar; good neighbors and hard working people. We are the overwhelming majority. I see no real Benefit to limiting the people of Michigan. Do not take the voters vote away by giving this industry away to big corporations.

We see the Pharmaceutical companies behind this agenda to change the classification of cannabis to monopolize this new industry. "The real truth", of the scientific research, paid for by the U.S tax payers over the last 25 years, shows in these studies continued scientific support in the health benefits of cannabis to humans. I am against the change of raising the classification of cannabis. Many thoundsands of caregiver's and patients have trusting personal relationships that no big companies can provide. By giving this away to big companies and limiting small business, that are rooted in their communities, will do little for the long term revenues to the state of Michigan. The public and government will be left with the side effects of the pharmaceutical companies.

This is a chance for the state of Michigan to make this a viable source of revenue with agro-programs for small and large caregivers/patients. The benefits to truly GO GREEN with small business by creating state licensed dispensaries for independent small caregivers and patients. Limiting this industry now is premature; we haven't even scratched the surface. What about hemp for new materials of durable goods that would produce new manufacturing jobs? Expand and develop this new industry to the people of Michigan. Limiting this industry should not be part of the agenda.

I am against Senate bill 616-618. Small business is what this new industry needs for the best interest to the State of Michigan. It won't be the big pharmaceutical companies to produce for the needs of the people. Independent producers, Caregiver /patient, is what to continue to build on for the best results for Michigan's economy and need for jobs.

Thank you for your time in this matter,