

Testimony of Cristine McDonough
Before the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee
September 21, 2021

Thank you members of the Senate Transportation Committee and chairs Langerholc and Sabatina for giving me an opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 167

My name is Cristine McDonough and I am a medical cannabis user in the state of Pennsylvania. I am a 59 year old secretary and I come before you having lived my 59 years without so much as a single traffic ticket, let alone a DUI conviction.

I was born with a birth defect where my hip socket didn't fully form. I had a hip replacement 6 years ago and reconstructive surgery that was necessary due to the extensive amount of osteoarthritis in my hip joint. I suffer from chronic pain and inflammation as a result. I also have asthma, so I do not and cannot inhale medical cannabis. Instead, I take a low dose capsule at bedtime to help with the pain and swelling. It also helps with my high blood pressure.

I recently discovered that I could be cited for DUI just for taking a capsule the day before that helps me feel better. That is JUST WRONG. I work full time five days a week and have never been in an accident yet I am treated like I am a menace to society.

If I lose my driver's license as a result of a chemical test showing trace amounts of THC I will not longer be able to work. If I cannot work then the burden of supporting me falls to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If I cannot drive or work I cannot contribute to our consumer driven economy. I simply cannot believe that it is your intent that I and others in my situation face unemployment due to our ridiculous "no proof of impairment" DUI law for cannabis. The guy at the Steeler game can lawfully consume alcohol and operate his motor vehicle provided he's not impaired and his blood alcohol content is below .08. I am not afforded that courtesy under our law. I am automatically guilty. I take a capsule at night before I go to bed. I am NOT "impaired" 8 hours later in the morning...but the current law says that I AM. I cannot even defend myself by proving I was not impaired.

Passing this bill is up to you. I hope you can see how senseless and outdated the current law is.

Thank You,

Cristine McDonough