

Testimony of Luke Shultz
Before the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee
September 21, 2021

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Luke Shultz. I am a certified medical cannabis patient and member of the Pa Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. I would like to thank Chairs Langerholc and Sabatina for this opportunity to address the Committee.

I use medical cannabis for chronic pain and to help with sleep. I am not interested in using cannabis for its psychotropic effects or to be impaired. Even so, due to Pa's "zero tolerance" DUI law, I must be concerned with being arrested for DUI every time I get behind the wheel of my car. The law does not care if I am impaired or not. I am considered DUI at all times simply because I use medical marijuana for my medical conditions and THC metabolites remain in my system for days or weeks after use. I am not alone in this concern. This issue affects more than 350,000 medical cannabis patients across the Commonwealth.

As a patient advocate on the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board I am very engaged with the patient and caregiver community. I have heard from a number of patients that have either failed to renew their medical marijuana certification when they learned of the DUI law, or have not pursued certification at all. In essence, not only is the DUI law unfairly threatening existing certified patients, but patients with serious medical conditions are avoiding a potentially effective treatment option due to this archaic law.

I ask that you support passage of Senate Bill 167, which will update the Pa DUI law to more fairly treat those patients who choose to enroll in the Pennsylvania medical marijuana program while still achieving safety on our roadways.

Sincerely,

Luke Shultz
Patient Advocate
Pa Medical Marijuana Advisory Board