



P H I L A D E L P H I A

*delegation*



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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January 22, 2018

Honorable Louis Lappen  
Acting U.S. Attorney  
Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Mr. Jonathan Wilson  
Special Agent in Charge, Philadelphia Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
William J. Green Federal Building  
600 Arch Street, Room 10224  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Acting U.S. Attorney Lappen and Special Agent Wilson:

As members of the Philadelphia Delegation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and strong supporters of Pennsylvania's new medical marijuana program, we are writing to request that you quickly and publicly affirm that your offices will pursue a policy similar to that recently outlined by U.S. Attorney David Freed of the Middle District of Pennsylvania:

"Having been involved as a state prosecutor in the drafting of that legislation, I believe that there are sufficient safeguards in the law to ensure that the products will be used as intended under the supervision of medical professionals," U.S. Attorney David Freed for the Middle District of Pennsylvania said.

"While I cannot state that there will never be an issue in this area meriting federal involvement, my office has no intention of disrupting Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program or related financial transactions."

([PennLive.com](http://PennLive.com), Jan. 4, 2018)



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We believe that medical cannabis patients in the nine counties of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and their caregivers and medical cannabis providers, deserve these same types of public assurances that they will not be targeted by federal authorities.

In addition, a lack of such assurances could force medical cannabis providers to rely on cash, making these businesses, owners and employees vulnerable to theft and complicate state efforts to collect taxes.

As you are probably aware, states with medical marijuana programs have seen substantially lower rates of opioid addiction and overdoses. In addition, the American Legion has called for allowing medical cannabis access for veterans in part because it can ease suffering and reduce suicide rates among soldiers who return from war, providing a superior alternative to opioids and antidepressants for many veterans.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

cc:

U.S. Attorney Nominee William McSwain

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey

Physician General and Acting Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Department of Health



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