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Loretta J. Fuddy, ACSWMPH, Director
Hawaii State Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Rescheduling use of medical marijuana

Dear Director Fuddy,

This letter is being written on behalf of my client Robert Marvit M.D., a board-certified psychiatrist licensed in the State of Hawaii who treats post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) patients on a regular basis. Dr. Marvit (who's CV is attached) hereby petitions your office to add PTSD as a qualifying condition for the treatment of patients under Hawaii's Medical Marijuana Program. This request is made pursuant to H.R.S., Chapter 91 and H.A.R. §23-202-2(3).

As you undoubtedly know PTSD is a debilitating medical condition with a clearly identifiable etiology and a well defined set of diagnostic criteria that are outlined in the DSM-IV-TR Reference Book. According to Dr. Marvit conventional treatment may involve the use of different types of medications such as anti-psychotic, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), most of which have been shown to produce a response rate in only 60% of patients. Even in this group, only 20-30% of patients have demonstrated what could be considered remission. In addition Dr. Marvit informs me a recent study conducted by the National Center for PTSD showed that conventional therapy for PTSD was ineffective in controlling symptoms compared with a placebo. Conversely Dr. Marvit has seen considerable scientific evidence that medical cannabis can be an effective treatment for PTSD, especially in patients who's

PTSD is combat-related. Preclinical research has demonstrated the ubiquitous nature of the endogenous cannabinoid neurotransmitter system in animals and humans. This work has allowed for a greater understanding of the cellular mechanisms behind the anxiolytic (anxiety/fear reducing) and aversive memory extinctive properties of endogenous and exogenous cannabinoids. This evidence, along with a randomized controlled trial that elucidated the neuroanatomic basis for the anxiolytic properties of THC, has demonstrated that medical cannabis is a valid treatment for PTSD.

It is worthy of note that Israel's Ministry of Health allows cannabis to be used to treat PTSD and both New Mexico and Delaware have included PTSD on their list of qualifying conditions for medical cannabis. Even the VA allows veterans who have been recommended medical cannabis to continue with their use of medical cannabis in states where cannabis is allowed for medical purposes.

Based on this evidence, my client hereby requests that the Department of Health add PTSD as a qualifying debilitating condition under the Hawaii's Medical Marijuana Program.

Sincerely,

Jack Schweigert, Esq.

Enclosure

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