

15 December 2023

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board:

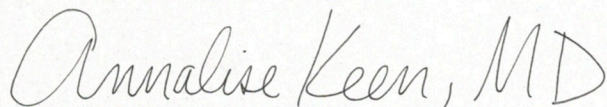
I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to allow qualified medical providers (QMPs) to recommend cannabis for any medical condition they deem appropriate rather than restricting recommendations to the 16 state approved qualifying medical conditions.

Medical cannabis comes with the potential for both benefit and harm. If QMPs are allowed to recommend medical cannabis for any medical condition, I worry that there will be a drift towards prescribing medical cannabis for conditions in which there is not strong evidence that it will be beneficial. In particular, I am concerned that this proposed change would create an opportunity for unscrupulous QMPs to prescribe medical cannabis for almost any condition even when patients would be better served by other treatments or could be harmed.

In situations in which a QMP believes medical cannabis could be beneficial for a non-qualifying medical condition, they already have the option to submit their request to the Compassionate Use Board for review. The Compassionate Use Board serves as an important safeguard by making sure that requests for medical cannabis for non-qualifying medical conditions are only approved in situations in which medical cannabis is more likely to be beneficial than harmful.

It is also important to note that the list of current state approved qualifying medical conditions includes all the medical conditions for which there is good evidence that cannabis can be helpful. The Cannabis Research Review Board has not identified any other medical conditions that should be added at this time.

Sincerely,



Annalise Keen, MD
Member of the Compassionate Use Board
Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute