

Texas Coalition for Compassionate Care

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

Last Updated Saturday, 17 July 2010

Dear Medical Marijuana Supporter, Texans for Medical Marijuana announces that the legislative efforts to bring Texas medical marijuana has moved to a new organization -- the Texas Coalition for Compassionate Care. This newly formed group has ongoing support from those who staffed TMM and has also received help from Americans for Safe Access nationally. The Texas Coalition for Compassionate Care is working towards securing safe access of medical marijuana for those Texas who need it most. As our name states, we seek to build a broad base coalition across our state of local chapters, churches and synagogues, medical organizations, and other supporting organizations to join with us in this work. While a dedicated group in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area began this process, there is much work to be done and we need the help and support of people across the state of Texas. Here is what we have done so far:

- Had the Texas House Bill (HB164) for Affirmative Defense introduced by Rep. Naishtat
- Began creating a website: www.texascompassion.com
- Set up an organizational structure as a committee of the Dallas Peace Center (for the purposes of having a support organization and receiving tax deductible donations)
- Began the process of networking to build a larger organization, including meetings with ministers along with supporters from the religious organization. Here are some important things we will need to do:
 - Have a companion bill to HB 164 introduced in the Texas Senate
 - Increase outreach and visibility efforts through attending events and parades
 - Create speakers panels equipped with presentation materials in different geographical areas
 - Work towards a full fledged medical marijuana bill in the state of Texas. We also need your help! Actions you can take right now:
 - Have your religious or community group sign a general statement of support for medical marijuana patients (see below for more information).
 - Call/ Write Rep Naishtat, Elliott and thank him for authoring House Bill 164
 - Write and call your state representative and ask them to sign on to sponsor HB 164. Find out who your State Representative is here
 - Write and call the following Housemembers that Cosponsored the same bill in the last session (2007) and ask for them to sign onto this year's bill:

Jackson, Jim(R) in Carolton/Dallas
Coleman, Garnet F.(D) in Houston

- Write and call your state Senator, ask them to introduce a companion bill in the Senate. Find out who your State Senator is here.

- Write and call the following Senators and ask that they introduce a companion bill in the Senate:

Senator West, Royce. ([info](#))

Senator Van de Putte, Leticia ([info](#))

Senator Shapleigh, Eliot ([info](#))

- Tell your friends about the TX Coalition for Compassionate Care; anyone that would like to be added to our e-mail. Sign up on our site here: [Texas Medical Marijuana](http://www.texascompassion.com). Do you attend a church or religious group that is compassionate? Work with a civic organization that would support medical marijuana in Texas? We will be gathering statements of support from these organizations and any additional supporting statements from religious leaders. View our simple statement here (<http://www.texascompassion.com/statements-of-support.html>). Be sure to include contact information so we may verify with the organization and inform them of our ongoing actions and ways they may choose to help further. About the Name Change: Texas Coalition for Compassionate Care. Medical marijuana is entangled in a web of politics, science and the law, but for those who need it most, it is really about compassion. Medical marijuana is about our capacity as humans to care about the welfare of another, and our willingness as a civilized society to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens, those with chronic illness and pain.