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Editorial page editor
Ann Arbor News

From: Charles Ream
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I know that you don't go to bed each night thinking about me – but I guarantee that I spend time every day and night thinking about you. You do hold people's lives in your hand. I am terrified that you will be negative about Proposal C – the city charter amendment for medical marijuana.

My greatest fear is that you will make your decision based on some picky legalisms or questions of procedure. I beg you to straightforwardly address the MORAL QUESTION. Possibly you believe (even in the face of all the facts I sent you) that cannabis is a huge danger to society and people must be kept away from it - even if they would suffer horribly and die without it. This is not the belief of local citizens, but if you believe that just say it – don't muddy up the issue. If you believe that doctors should have access to common ancient healing herbs then please say that.

If you come out against us we may win by only 70%. If you speak the truth it will pass by over 80%. The people of Ann Arbor will have sent a strong message and will have registered a great moral victory.

There is no need to “balance” this story – unless you would also “balance” a story about women being burned as witches or Jews being gassed in the holocaust.

Please glance at my enclosures.

My involvement in the Ann Arbor campaign grew directly out of my obsession with the story of Janet Andrews and her son Josh. Josh lived, although he had been given a 1% chance – but I could not sleep thinking about the other children on that ward.

Please see the tiny clipping from British Columbia about the old arthritic lady that I carry in my wallet at all times.

Now check the story of the quadriplegic man on a ventilator that they murdered in DC. Do you feel the fury that I feel? I will be walking all the way through this town many times over the next few days, from Main and Huron to S. University and S. Forest. I will carry our huge beautiful sign and pass out leaflets. I will call these the Jonathan Magbie memorial walks. I will explain the death of Mr. Magbie to all who will listen. PLEASE run his story in your paper. Please write a favorable editorial.

A² prop C

Hello, my name is Charles Ream. I have been teaching kindergarten for 33 years. I am in my 16th year of being an elected trustee of Scio Township. I'm a Michigan Licenced professional counselor. I tell you this for one reason – so you know that it is ludicrous and slanderous to think that I would do anything that would hurt children or anybody else. I gave up the career that I loved so deeply because I knew it was absolutely critical to put the issue of Medical Marijuana before the voters of Ann Arbor and Michigan.

It is ridiculous beyond belief to say that cannabis/marihuana is not one of our most important medicines. Cannabis has been used medically for thousands of years, beginning with the Chinese and then extensively in India. It was rediscovered and brought back into western medicine beginning in 1839 by a British doctor working in India. We don't have to worry a bit about cannabis medicine harming the USA since it was already used very extensively in the United States and Europe during the 19th century – used with the weakest tiny infant or the oldest granny. Nobody complained – because it worked so well.

Do you think our ancestors were stupid?

There is danger in using cannabis only if you use it when you are supposed to be studying for an exam. Every major national Commission and every long term study over the last 110 years has shown that marijuana is not very dangerous. Doctors dispense drugs that are sometimes **very** dangerous – we can certainly trust them with cannabis.

Federal Judge Francis Young, chosen by the DEA, laid down what should have been the final ruling on Medical Marijuana in 1988. The top judge said “Marijuana... is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man... one **must** conclude that there is accepted safety for the use of medical marijuana under medical supervision... In strict medical terms marijuana is **far safer** than many foods we commonly consume... It would be unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for the DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance”.

This was the courts ruling, and the federal agents went right on attacking patients. They are now the true outlaws.

The people of Ann Arbor are intelligent and compassionate they can't be tricked by “culture war” foolishness. We care about human suffering and we know that sometimes the **people** are way out ahead of the politicians and it's up to the people to make the politicians do the right thing.

The people of Ann Arbor are not afraid to exercise leadership on a **moral issue**. We know that desperately sick people are not criminals. We will not tolerate government action that can take the homes and the children and the medicine away from innocent sick people and leave them to live and die in agony – or commit suicide, as many patients have done.

The people of Ann Arbor are going to vote resoundingly for proposal C. Our message will ring out over this earth – that the people of Ann Arbor demand the best Compassionate Care possible for patients who need it. The supreme court justices will read about our landslide victory, just before they take up the Question of Medical Marijuana on Nov 29.

CLOSE

God said in Genesis 1-29 "Behold, I have given you **every** herb bearing seed which is on the face of **all** the earth". Didn't he make himself clear?

Jesus said in Matthew 15-11, "What goes **into** a mans mouth does **not** make him unclean, but what comes **out of** his mouth, **that** is what makes him unclean." Would Jesus take the herbs of creation away from a desperately sick person – so that they could go forth to live and die in agony?

In June of this year the American Nurses Association, America's largest nurses organization, endorsed Medical Marijuana. Nurses are the hero's who provide most direct patient care – and they have to watch as good people are crushed under pain and are forced to vomit until they die. Nurses demand "safe access to therapeutic marijuana/cannabis" and the removal of criminal penalties. Doctors groups are also falling into line. The American Medical Association fought hard in 1937 to keep cannabis medicine legal. Many nations allow cannabis medicine.

Cannabis can lower medical costs. Medicines that are said to be nearly as good, like zofran or interferon, cost well over a thousand dollars per shot per injection.

Thousands of agonizing stories by parishioners have brought many American churches to support medical marijuana, such as the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Union for Reformed Judaism, the Progressive national Baptist Convention, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and many others.

If cannabis was not medicine then why would the federal government give a can of 30 cigarettes to 8 "federal patients" each month. How could the drug companies put one part of cannabis into a pill called Marinol and charge a lot of money for it.

Political polling shows that Medical Marijuana will win in Ann Arbor with about 80% in favor – but who is that one person in five who just wants to let their fellow human beings suffer and die. What if they – or someone they loved – needed medical cannabis someday? When they come to judgement how will they explain that they intentionally kept the compassionate cannabis that **god created** away from suffering people who needed it.

Like the Motown song says, "I ain't too proud to beg" VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL C !