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Inbox: Re: Monroe county medical patient busted/ Chuck (25 of 27202)

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Date: Fri, 29 Oct 2010 09:56:08 -0400 [09:56:08 AM EDT]

From: Vickie Gandara <medicinewoman55@gmail.com>

To: Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu>

Subject: Re: Monroe county medical patient busted/ Chuck

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Good Morning Chuck,

I wanted to get this letter off to you before I go to visit Sean this morning and take his picture for the posters. It is going to be a very difficult visit to the hospital. Sean has been my patient since May 2010. More than a patient he has become part of our family. He is a quiet kid, who, as you know, was born with a serious birth defect, causing him to endure years of surgeries and life threatening stints in the hospital. When I called him yesterday at Mercy Memorial Hospital, I could barely hear him, he said it was difficult to speak. His voice did get a little stronger when I asked him if he would be willing to be the face the community could relate to regarding our fight with law enforcement arresting patients. He said "Hell yes!, you have my permission Mom." Although I'm not his biological mother, I have become a Mom to him through this fight we fight to keep him out of jail for admitting to undercover police that he had less than 1/2 gram of medical marijuana. When asked by the OMNI officials what he had in a medicine bottle, Sean told them that is my medicine. The officer said that it wasn't medicine, it was weed. Sean then told them it was his medicine because his stomach problems did not allow him to take so much as an aspirin. He showed them his open wound, which houses his internal colostomy bag and was told "Not to play the patient pity party". Unbelievable that even when faced with a young patient who has such a serious medical condition, the officials could be so harsh and uncompassionate to him.

I have been contacting anyone who would listen to try and help this young man stay out of jail. He did not have the large retainer fee to pay for an attorney, so we will get him a court appointed one and hope for the best. He cannot work, he lives at home because of his financial situation. He is amazing and I'm proud to count him as one of my sons. We struggle to stay positive as he lays in that bed, in pain, alone and scared. When he turned himself in to the police to be booked for the

↓ he was
 UM busted

possession charge a few weeks ago, I waited for his phone call because I was not allowed to go with him. When he called, he told me the story of how afraid of him the police were. They did not put him in a holding cell because of his medical condition. The jail nurse would not even come and check him because his condition was way out of her experience and knowlege. So what did the police do? They had him stand by the intake desk for three hours before his arraignment. Yes, they had him stand there. No chair, no compassion, no heart! He told the prosecutor before his arraignment about affirmative defense and was told that didn't apply to him. Oh really, it doesn't apply? How so? If Sean doesn't have affirmative defense, who does? The ingnorance of the powers that be never cease to amaze me.

So today, as you are there on the Capitol steps, raising your voices for our cause, stop and think of Sean. Let his voice be heard, and mine, and ours. Let them know that this young man is a patient in need. Let them know that he is a good kid with a big heart, who would help anybody in need. Let them know that he is someone's child, brother and best friend. Let them know that he could be you, or your child lying in a hospital bed fighting for his life with the threat of jail looming over his head. Jail for nothing more than using cannabis to ease his pain! If he is convicted of wrongful possession of marijuana, he will no longer be eligible to have a patient card, if he is givien probation he will not be allowed to use his pain medication and then what? He will be lost in a sea of red tape and I don't want to think about what will happen to him.

This young man needs our support, he needs are voices to speak for him, he needs us because it's Our Meds, Our Choice, and Our Right!!

Fight the Fight!

Vickie D. Gandara-Zieger
MedWo, LLC

On Wed, Oct 13, 2010 at 9:45 AM, Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu> wrote:

Hi I am Chuck Ream, head of the Safer Michigan Coalition - for cannabis law reform.

How can I help the man from Monroe county who was busted for less than one gram?

Is Denny Hayes representing him? Thank you, Chuck Ream

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