



Illinois State Medical Society

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), this letter urges you to sign Senate Bill 10, which makes changes to the *Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program*. SB 10 contains numerous changes to this Act; however, there are two specific areas in this legislation that will better allow physicians to treat their patients as well as improve the physician role in the medical cannabis certification process.

First, language in SB 10 would require the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to electronically submit the names of all approved registrants for medical cannabis to the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). This information is crucial for physicians to have when talking to their patients. Knowing that a patient might be using medical cannabis could change other courses of treatment that might be impacted by the use of cannabis. This information will help guide physicians when writing certain prescriptions, such as for opioid or other narcotic pain medications, possibly reducing the number of pain prescriptions written during this national opioid epidemic.

Second, SB 10 makes changes to clarify a physician's role in the certification process. Language in SB 10 removes the requirement that physicians certify that, in their professional opinion, a patient under their care for a qualifying medical condition would be "likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of cannabis to treat or alleviate the patient's debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated." This change will remove unnecessary burdens to participation in the program, which has been a concern of ISMS.

On behalf of the physicians of Illinois, ISMS thanks you for your consideration in signing SB 10. We believe the issues addressed above will not only improve patient safety but also give greater clarity to the role of physicians in the certification process. We respectfully request your support for this legislation.

Regards,

William A. McDade, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Illinois State Medical Society

cc: Thomas M. Anderson, M.D.
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