

Sent: Friday, 13 February 2015 7:54 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Cannabis use for medical purpose

Categories: HACSS

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Please accept this email as my support for the legalisation of using medical cannabis for the proposed categories of illness and terms that you set out in the discussion paper.

Our story:

My Son (now 6 years old) has a severe form of epilepsy known as Dravet Syndrome. (<http://www.dravetfoundation.org/dravet-syndrome/what-is-dravet-syndrome>)

We have exhausted every medicine that is legally available to treat this disease, and he currently takes 3 different types of anti-epileptic drugs a day.

All of these drugs come with enough side-effects to fill an A3 page of paper. For instance, on commencement of his latest drug, he immediately developed a speech stutter, problems sleeping, loss of appetite and shaky movements.

We were recently advised of a "new" drug that has shown some success at controlling this disease, but is currently undergoing more testing (known as fenfluramine hydrochloride - was taken off the market in 1997 because of its dangerous side effects). We would want to try medical cannabis before this drug.

My wife and I spend hours a week researching what is happening around the world, and have read about the success that patients with Dravet are having with the use of medical cannabis. We would much prefer the testing of medical cannabis and pray that we can one day take him off (or at least reduce) his nasty regime of zombie creating drugs that he takes to reduce his seizures.

As there are no other drugs that have shown success with this disease, I would hope that the declaring doctor would be able to simply check off a list of drugs that we have tried, and grant the use of medical cannabis.

My Son still has very poor seizure control, and I hope that this legalisation gets passed sooner than later.

Regards