



Texas Eagle Forum Opposes HB 1805 (Rep. Klick)

5% THC Medical Marijuana is Inappropriate

Texas Eagle Forum **Opposes** the inclusion of medical marijuana "low-THC cannabis" increased to 5% in this bill. The 1% limit already in law is unnecessary and irresponsible. We further oppose adding "chronic pain" and "debilitating medical conditions" which will make Texas a medical marijuana state.

THC products contain high amounts of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and have a psychoactive component. CBD products (Hemp) have low THC 0.3% and are legal for sale with no psychoactive component.

Both products are Cannabis, the distinction is the THC level.

Psychoactive effects

This bill is allowing the use of "Low-THC", which is the medical marijuana with psychoactive effects and not the HEMP CBD products which are currently available. It changes the definition of "Low-THC" to 5% (from 1%).

For any medical condition

With the addition of section (xi) 'chronic pain' where 'an opioid' would be used and the changes in section (xii) adding for 'a debilitating medical condition' along with section (B) which allows for the physician to determine the risk of use versus benefit, means that physicians can prescribe this product for nearly any condition.

Long-term negative psychiatric effects

High THC use may be connected to long-term negative psychiatric effects. This may be especially true for adolescents who consume large amounts of THC.

Long-term cannabis use can cause amotivational syndrome in which people experience symptoms of depression along with low motivation, according to Terence Ng; Vikas Gupta. [1](#) The same research notes that cannabis use has also

been linked to psychosis, depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and substance use disorders.

Also of note, that medical cannabis has its own significant side effects **2**. [A 2012 research study by Duke University](#) found that persistent users of cannabis had reduced neuropsychological functioning, with adolescent onset users experiencing greater decline in IQ and executive functioning. These effects did not reverse fully on stopping cannabis use for one year or more, suggesting it has potential neurotoxic effects.

Another study shows that [cannabis use in adolescence can significantly increase the risk of developing psychotic symptoms](#) and persistent use can precipitate psychotic disorders in later life.³ Studies have also shown that cannabis use and the development of psychosis in adolescents is dose-dependent, with poorer outcomes associated with an earlier age and higher frequency of use.³

What risk-value analysis studies can you reference to show that THC products outperform the Hemp-CBD products while not causing harm to children/adolescent brain development?

Rather than legalizing medical marijuana, we need more in depth studies on herbs like Hemp or Corydalis (yanhusuo) which have no psychoactive effect and help with pain.

Why are we not prescribing acupuncture for nausea associated with chemotherapies? Texas licenses these providers and the procedure is well researched, enough to be a covered service through medical insurance.

The long-term risk-value analysis

We should never move this direction without long-term risk-value analysis proving that a THC protocol helps with the conditions listed above, wherein the patients show a higher quality of life, less disability, less psychological conditions and a higher level of functioning in society vs. outcomes for those who use other methods including medical grade CBD. To date these studies do not exist.

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK563174/>
2. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1206820109>
3. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.d738>

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