



The General Assembly

STATE OF IOWA
Eighty-sixth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

July 8, 2019

Honorable Jack Whitver, Chair
Studies Committee – Legislative Council

Honorable Linda Upmeyer, Vice Chair
Studies Committee – Legislative Council

Dear Majority Leader Whitver and Speaker Upmeyer:

Today we write you to request an interim study to examine the best way to reform and improve Iowa's medical cannabis program.

In the wake of the Governor's unexpected veto of legislation (House File 732) that passed the Iowa House by a vote of 96 to 3 and the Iowa Senate by a vote of 40 to 7, we believe an interim committee would be the best way to achieve all these goals:

- Providing a venue for legislators and other policymakers to hear from patients and health care providers about the best ways to make Iowa's medical cannabis program effective for more Iowans.
- Increasing the likelihood that science-based evidence, not personal feelings and opinions, are the basis for new legislation. There is too much misinformation out there about the current law and House File 732. An interim committee would be educational for everyone involved.
- Ensuring that legislation for the 2020 session is developed in public meetings where Iowans with an interest in this issue have a chance to listen, learn and weigh in on this important issue. We've always found that an open, transparent process is the best route for elected officials and their constituents.
- Guaranteeing that Republican and Democratic legislators will develop bipartisan legislation that will pass in the early days of the 2020 legislative session and have the support of Governor Reynolds. Too many Iowans have waited too long for an effective, affordable medical cannabis program.

Finally, we hope that legislative leaders and the chairs of the Medical Cannabidiol Act Improvement Committee will invite the Governor, the Director of the Department of Public Health, members of the Medical Cannabidiol Advisory Board to attend all meetings and to provide time for public input.

Thanks for your consideration.

Joe Bolkcom
State Senator

John Forbes
State Representative