

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

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On Assembly Floor

Division of Governmental Affairs

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

A. 688 (ROSENTHAL)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to adding dysmenorrhea to the list of conditions covered for lawful medical use of marihuana

On Assembly Floor
In Senate Health Committee

A. 1616 (ABINANTI)
S.3063 (ORTT)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to adding autism to the list of conditions covered for lawful medical use of marihuana

These legislative proposals would expand the lists of medical conditions in which a physician and/or other health care practitioner can certify a patient to use marijuana. The Medical Society is opposed to these measures.

The Medical Society of the State of New York has expressed significant concerns with enactment of laws in New York expanding the list of medical conditions for which a patient can be certified to use marijuana without adequate scientific evidence. With regard to these two pieces of legislation, we are again concerned regarding the lack of rigorous scientific studies that shows that using marijuana is beneficial for menstrual cramps or autism.

We note that, after scientific review, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Epidiolex (cannabidiol) [CBD] oral solution for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare and severe forms of epilepsy, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome, in patients two years of age and older. This is the first FDA-approved drug that contains a purified drug substance derived from marijuana. It is also the first FDA approval of a drug for the treatment of patients with Dravet syndrome. We continue to strongly support needed scientific research to study the efficacy of marijuana for treating various medical conditions.

While there may be anecdotal information from individuals, there is no scientific literature that indicated that marijuana is an effective method for treatment of these two conditions. Furthermore, the Medical Society is extremely concerned that the long term consumption of marijuana could have an adverse impact on the adolescent brain. **For all the reasons above, the Medical Society of the State of New York opposes these measures and urges that they be defeated.**

Pfc/oppose
02/5/19