Physicians FOR Initiative 65

Frank Baird
500 Cypress Ln Apt H1
Greenville MS 38701-7527

Mississippi Doctors for Medical Marijuana in Mississippi Supporting Initiative 65

We are Mississippi physicians and we support Initiative 65. We believe that we and other Mississippi doctors should have the ability to certify our patients for medical marijuana as a treatment option. Initiative 65 is the only choice on the November 2020 general election ballot that will create a well-regulated medical marijuana program in Mississippi, and we are asking for your support.

In our practices, we see patients every day who are suffering from the symptoms of conditions and diagnoses like cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease, and chronic pain. Many of these patients have tried traditional medications yet still cannot find relief or are dealing with unwanted side effects of pharmaceutical drugs like opioids. For some of these patients, medical marijuana could be a viable option to relieve their pain and abate other symptoms. Initiative 65 will allow us to utilize our professional judgment to consider medical marijuana as a treatment option for our patients.

More than 3.5 million Americans are finding relief through medical marijuana programs operating in 34 states, including Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, and Missouri. We believe Mississippi patients should have this same opportunity. We understand that medical marijuana is not a cure-all, but we want to have this option in our toolbox should we believe this medicine to be beneficial for our patients.

We support medical marijuana as a treatment option because of the countless testimonials of patients across the country who have found relief through medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physicians. Physicians around the country agree that medical marijuana is a real option that patients deserve.

“As a physician and a legislator, I’ve seen medical marijuana help people in ways that no other drug that we have currently can. As a doctor, it’s important for us to try and help our patients in the best way possible... It’s something I’ve seen work in Florida, and I’d like to see it work in Mississippi.” – Ralph Massullo, M.D., Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives

Initiative 65 is the only choice if you support patients’ access to medical marijuana. Some politicians have offered a competing ballot measure, Alternative 65A, that purports to also create a medical marijuana program, but, under the purview of politicians, 65A comes up short in every way and will not result in Mississippian’s obtaining relief.

- The people’s Initiative 65 specifically names 22 qualifying medical conditions including cancer, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis. **The politicians’ Alternative 65A does not name any.**
- Initiative 65 is the only option that specifically gives Mississippi physicians the authority to certify patients for medical marijuana. **The politicians’ Alternative 65A broadly allows certification by “Health Practitioners” which is not limited or defined.**
- Initiative 65 provides legal protection for patients, caregivers, and doctors. **65A does not provide any protections.**
- Initiative 65 allows caregivers to help the disabled, homebound, and minors with qualifying medical conditions. **65A does not allow caregivers.**
- Initiative 65 establishes a framework for how a medical marijuana program will function in a highly regulated and clearly defined environment. **65A does not establish any framework and allows politicians to decide how and when a program will work.**

We will be voting for Initiative 65 in November. We hope you will, too.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claude Harbarger, M.D.  Dr. Julie P. Miller III, M.D.  Dr. Matthew B. Wesson, M.D.  Dr. Philip Levin, M.D.
Assistant Professor of  Board Certified Child and  Board Certified  President, Mississippi Chapter
Otolaryngology (ENT)  Adolescent Psychiatrist  Ophthalmologist of the American College of
Dr. Sharon T. LaRose, M.D.  Dr. Chris Park, D.O.  Dr. Justin Daniels, MD  Emergency Room Physician
Board Certified Psychiatrist  Park Medical Clinic  Emergency Room Physician  Neurosurgeon
Dr. Nathan McIntosh, M.D.  Dr. Michael L. Sanders, M.D.
Emergency Medicine  CPE Primary Care
Specialist  Physician, Face Value
Health DPR, PLLC

www.MedicalMarijuana2020.com
Paid for by Mississippians for Compassionate Care
MISSISSIPPI CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT INITIATIVE 65

In November, Mississippi voters will have two options for a medical marijuana program: Initiative 65 and Alternative 65A ("A" for the alternative).

**Initiative 65 is the only conservative option:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative 65</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Alternative 65A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Amends State Constitution</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Named Diseases</td>
<td>Specific List of Qualifying Conditions</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Doctors Required</td>
<td>Certification for Patients</td>
<td>&quot;Health Practitioners&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>In Person Examination</td>
<td>Silent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Funded by User Fees</td>
<td>New Taxes on Patients’ Medicine</td>
<td>Permits unlimited taxes for general fund spending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Taxpayer Funds</td>
<td>Permits funding with your tax dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected</td>
<td>Zoning Restrictions</td>
<td>Silent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal</td>
<td>Public Smoking</td>
<td>Silent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressly Prohibited</td>
<td>Impaired Driving</td>
<td>Silent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Amount to purchase</td>
<td>No Limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Regulation/Rule&quot; appears 33 times</td>
<td>Strict Regulation</td>
<td>None. No mention of &quot;Rules&quot; or &quot;Regulations.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Initiative 65 is for conservatives.**  
**Alternative 65A is wrong for Mississippi.**

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Sample Ballot

Health would regulate and enforce the provisions of this amendment.

Legislative Budget Office Fiscal Analysis:  
(This will be added later.)

VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER, OR AGAINST BOTH:

- FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER Initiative Measure No. 65 or Alternative Measure No. 65 A
- AGAINST BOTH Initiative Measure No. 65 A

VOTE FOR ONE:

- FOR Initiative Measure No. 65
- FOR Alternative Measure No. 65 A

VOTE FOR ONE:

- FOR Initiative Measure No. 65 A
- AGAINST Initiative Measure No. 65 A

VOTE FOR ONE:

- FOR Initiative Measure No. 65
- FOR Alternative Measure No. 65 A

VOTE FOR ONE:

- FOR Initiative Measure No. 65
- FOR Alternative Measure No. 65 A

**Sample Ballot**

Vote YES on INITIATIVE 65!