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Randall K. Gaylord  
SAN JUAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
350 Court Street • P.O. Box 760 • Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
(360) 378-4101 (tel) • (360) 378-3180 (fax)

Office of the Governor

Victim Services  
Sandra L. Burt, MSW  
Elizabeth Pillow

Deputies  
Charles Z. Silverman  
Jonathan W. Cain  
Kim M. McClay  
Gwendolyn L. Halliday  
Amy S. Vira

January 3, 2012

Michele Leonhart, Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrissette Drive  
Springfield, VA 22152

**Subject: Petition for Rulemaking to Reclassify Cannabis for Medical Use from  
Schedule I to Schedule II**

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

I write in support of the petition that Governor Gregoire and Governor Chafee recently submitted to initiate rulemaking proceedings for the reclassification of medical cannabis (also known as marijuana) from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act.

As a prosecuting attorney and coroner that is responsible for upholding the laws of our community, state and federal government since 1995, I see the need for resolution regarding the legality of medical cannabis. I am caught in the middle of the desire expressed by the residents of our state and community to see cannabis available for medical use and the federal government's absolute inflexibility in regards to the medical benefits of cannabis.

The public is demanding reform on the status of medical cannabis because it is effective. About a month before he died, my predecessor in office and former executive director of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Mr. Michael Redman, spoke to a group of Prosecutors about the beneficial use of medical cannabis during cancer treatments. Mr. Redman urged all prosecutors in Washington to support the medical use of cannabis.

My experience has been that use of cannabis (and particularly medicinal use) is rarely a contributing factor in incidents of violence, and overuse or excessive use is rarely a contributing factor in accidental deaths. This is in contrast to alcohol, and prescription drugs which are often

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implicated in violence and death.

The status of medical cannabis under federal law is an untenable situation and has cost the people in this state significant time and resources to address.

I hope you will join me and sympathize with patients suffering from serious medical conditions who could benefit from medical use of cannabis and do not have a safe and consistent source of the drug. The divergence in state and federal law creates a situation where there is no regulated and safe system to supply legitimate patients who may benefit from medical cannabis.

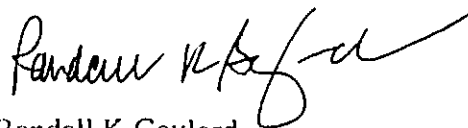
The federal government could quickly solve the issue if it reclassified cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule II drug and I believe the Petition of Governor Gregoire provides substantiated peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support this approach.

The solution lies with the federal government. I ask that the DEA take the right action supported by the science and allow states to decide how and when to make medical cannabis available.

Please immediately initiate rulemaking proceedings to reclassify medical cannabis as a Schedule II drug so qualifying patients who follow state law may obtain the medication they need through the traditional and safe method of physician prescribing and pharmacy dispensing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Randall K Gaylord

cc: The Honorable Chris Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington ✓  
The Honorable Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General  
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D., FDA Commissioner  
Mr. Tom McBride, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys