



Suburban Cities Association  
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206-433-7168

March 7, 2012

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

**RE: *Rulemaking petition to reclassify cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule II***

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

On behalf of the Suburban Cities Association, we write in support of the petition that Governor Christine Gregoire and Governor Lincoln Chaffee 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 (CSA).

The Suburban Cities Association (SCA) is a nonprofit association representing the suburban cities of King County, Washington. Its members collectively represent nearly one million constituents. SCA was founded in the 1970s to help cities with populations of under 150,000 act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through networking, advocacy, education, and leadership.

As Mayors and Councilmembers, we need resolution regarding the legality of medical cannabis. While the voters of our state have passed an initiative allowing for the use of cannabis for medical purposes, our state's United States Attorneys Mike Ormsby and Jenny Durkan have indicated that the federal government would prosecute "vigorously against individuals and organizations that participate in unlawful manufacturing and distribution activity involving marijuana, even if such activities are permitted under state law."

As a result, cities are caught in the middle. The conflict between state and federal law has created confusion for local law enforcement, and addressing the land use challenges created by the conflict has cost our cities considerable time and resources. In an effort to help resolve this conflict and ease the public safety and regulatory burdens on cities, SCA has adopted a resolution in support of reclassification of medical marijuana/cannabis.

Ultimately, the solution lies with the federal government. If cannabis were reclassified as a Schedule II drug under the CSA, qualified patients who follow the law could obtain medical cannabis just like they receive other medications – through a prescription written by a physician, dispensed by a pharmacist. The medical community supports reclassification, and the petition filed by Governors Gregoire and Chaffee provides substantiated peer-reviewed scientific evidence in support of the reclassification. We therefore urge the DEA to initiate rulemaking proceedings to reclassify cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I to a Schedule II drug.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denis Law, President, SCA Board of Directors  
Mayor, City of Renton

cc: 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  
The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of Washington