



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health has under consideration a Petition to add Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a debilitating condition pursuant to RIGL §21-28.6-5. This (undated) Petition was received by the Director on 4 February 2014). Copies of this Petition are attached to this Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of RIGL §21-28.6-5 that the Director will hold a public hearing on the above mentioned matter, in the **AUDITORIUM** of the Rhode Island Department of Health (on the lower level of the Cannon Building), Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island on **MONDAY, 2 JUNE 2014 AT 9:30 AM** at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. The Hearing Officer will limit testimony to the specific request contained in the Petition. Testimony regarding any other aspects of the Medical Marijuana Program will not be accepted at this time. The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

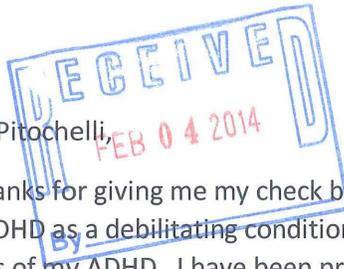
For the sake of accuracy, it is requested that statements to be made relative to this Petition be submitted in writing at the time of the hearing or sent at least ten (10) days in advance to Medical Marijuana Program, RI Department of Health, Office of Health Professionals Regulation, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 104, Providence, RI 02908-5097.

The Department of Health is accessible to the handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-222-7767 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting

Signed this 24th day of April 2014

Original signed by Michael Fine, MD

Michael Fine, M.D., Director of Health



Dear Ms. Pitochelli,

Firstly, thanks for giving me my check back. Secondly, I wish to petition the Department of Health to include ADHD as a debilitating condition. While I have severe anxiety and depression, they are only symptoms of my ADHD. I have been prescribed almost every medication used in the treatment of ADHD. All of them have either failed to work properly or they have come with severely negative side effects including but not limited to malnutrition, insomnia, and suicidal thoughts. Marijuana is the only treatment that successfully alleviates my condition without any noticeable side effects, allowing me to be a productive member of society.

Without marijuana, I lose the ability to focus and think clearly. Because of this, I am often smothered by pangs of social anxiety and depression. Not being able to focus also negatively impacts my grades as well as my ability to find a job. I have little to no control over my emotions and I regularly experience radical mood swings. I have no control over my thought processes and I often act immaturely and compulsively. Ironically, my marijuana usage combats the laziness and lack of motivation I've felt all my life. It gets so bad that some days I can't even get out of bed because it took me all night to fall asleep because my brain wouldn't stop. When I stop smoking for prolonged periods of time, it comes back with a vengeance and just keeps getting worse and worse the longer I go without smoking. These aren't withdrawals or anything as I've experienced all of these symptoms for as long as I can remember.

I can understand why anyone would be skeptical, but this is my only option to live a normal and successful life. Before I started smoking marijuana, I was on the verge of failing out of high school and I was really depressed. Once I started smoking regularly, I was able to graduate high school and get my life together. Now, I'm on the dean's list at CCRI and I'm around people much more than I used to be. That may not seem like much, but I've managed to completely turn my life around in less than a year with the help of marijuana.

In addition to this letter are medical articles supporting the use of marijuana in the treatment of ADHD. I've already missed out on so many opportunities because of my condition. Not being able to control your own thoughts and emotions is torturous enough on its own, not taking into consideration all of the people who want nothing to do with you because they see you as different for not being able to notice the subtext of a conversation. Medical marijuana is the only shot I have at being able to live my own life, instead of having to watch myself fail again and again. I'm willing to do whatever's required, just tell me what I need to do.

Sincerely,

Matthew Imbruglia