



February 22, 2021

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 311 (Hueso) Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act or Ryan's Law
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) is proud to support Senate Bill 311 by Senator Ben Hueso, known otherwise as the Compassionate Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act or "Ryan's Law". This bill aims to protect patients' rights by requiring hospice facilities to allow terminally-ill patients to use medical cannabis while in palliative care.

Cannabis is proven to relieve a number of symptoms related to terminal illnesses including cancer, HIV/AIDS, and a number of other ailments. For many individuals, particularly terminally-ill patients, medicinal cannabis is a preferred alternative to other drugs, as it provides therapeutic relief without many of the caveats that come with other medicines such as opioids. Unfortunately, due to the unique legal nature of cannabis, there is no legal framework for terminally-ill patients to continue to use medical cannabis while in a palliative-care facility.

SB 311 remedies this issue by requiring that certain hospice facilities allow medicinal cannabis to be used by patients on the premises, while providing safeguards that protect these facilities' patient populations and guarantees flexibility in accommodating medicinal cannabis patients. All individuals who wish to use medicinal cannabis while in care must provide proof of their medical cannabis recommendation or their county-issued medical marijuana ID. Moreover, smoking and vaping cannabis is prohibited, and health care facilities may reasonably restrict the ways in which patients store and use their medicinal cannabis.

In short, this legislation strikes a careful balance between protecting patients' rights and providing facilities that offer palliative care flexibility to accommodate medicinal cannabis users in their premises. For these reasons, CCIA is proud to support SB 311 and requests your AYE vote when it is heard in the Senate Health Committee.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Robinson
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
Members, Senate Committee on Health
Vincent D. Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Committee on Health