



September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 311 (Hueso) Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act or Ryan's Law
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) is proud to support Senate Bill 311 by Senator Ben Hueso, also known as the Compassionate Access to Medical 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 side effects and complications that come with other treatments 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 medicinal 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. Specifically, SB 311 would require a healthcare facility to reasonably restrict the manner in which a patient stores and uses medical cannabis to ensure the safety of others in the facility, and it does not apply to patients receiving emergency care. Moreover, the bill provides that smoking and vaping cannabis is expressly prohibited. Lastly, the bill includes a strong safe harbor clause to allow facilities to suspend compliance should any federal agency initiate enforcement action or express interest in once again enforcing federal cannabis laws.

In short, SB 311 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 signature on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lindsay Robinson
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
Stuart Thompson, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom
Nicole Elliott, Director, California Department of Cannabis Control