

Statement by Petitioner Kathy Gritton

Supreme Court Of The State Of Utah
Honorable Justices of the Utah Supreme Court:

I would like to explain why I am a petitioner. I experienced no real education regarding the political process in public school, or how to participate. As a mother of 4 in my 30's, I tried to stay informed, and read the newspapers and watched the news. As I read about a proposition we would be voting on in the newspaper, the "pro" reasons in claimed: "The Proposition would bring the law into compliance with current practice."

That blew me away! It meant that the State was operating illegally, and wanted the Law changed to retroactively make their illegal actions legal. That is when I learned that we can't always "trust" our leaders, and that they don't protect our rights according to the Constitution, their oath of office, or any other honest standard.

The Citizen Initiative is a democratic check on over-reach and abuse of power by the Legislative branch in tandem with the Executive branch. Both the Governor and Legislature have de-legitimized the Citizens' Initiative, by gutting the initiatives passed by the majority of the voting Citizens. This was done immediately following the election, intercepting the new law before it could function. The Legislature called itself into special session, at the expense of the Citizens, in order to over-ride their will. Some contend that this was planned as a strategy prior to the election, for remedy by reversal. Whether or not it was pre-planned, it was definitely a slap in the face to the citizens who voted for it.

Because the Legislative and Executive Branches increasingly serve corporations, bureaucracy, and industry, their loyalty to their constituents ranks very low. Thus far the Judicial Branch has not served as a real check against the other two Branches of government. It is my hope that this Supreme Court will set new precedent to that end. If they get away with what they have done, we have not check or balance left.

My personal support of Medical Marijuana began after meeting people who were suffering grand mal seizures, some several times a day, some hundreds of times a month. Researching this, I came to understand that these cases are often terminal. When news reported that people with seizures often benefited from Medical Marijuana, I again did my own research. I know of at least one person who left Utah with their child to a state where treatment with Medical Marijuana was allowed. That child's seizures became so reduced that they were thriving, and rarely had seizures anymore.

Another person whose child had serious seizures, stayed in the state, followed the law, and the child died from the seizures. This happened several years ago, and I have read about similar cases since then. These children were foremost on my mind when lobbying my representatives for medical relief for these human beings.

Instead of taking the time to listen to me, my legislator falsely attacked and labeled me. He wrote:

“So I would assume you are for legalization of heroin and cocaine as well as psychotropic mushrooms since they are plant based too? Fine if you are, I just have a different opinion”

The LDS church agreed to remove their opposition if the Initiative was re-written to their standards. They wanted an age limit in place, as is done with regulation of tobacco and alcohol. Unfortunately, that doesn't help babies, toddlers and older children who are suffering and dying.

I was also reminded of a Citizen Initiative passed in 1976 to remove the mandate for fluoridation of the public water supplies. It was reversed in 2003 by the Legislature, allowing fluoride into all water districts that didn't refuse it. I fought hard against fluoride, because I have a son on dialysis who can be harmed by it. Had they listened to the people, the water pipes in my city (Sandy) might not have been severely eroded by fluoride, and a lot of people would have been spared the metallic toxins that made our water unsafe to drink. We're not as dumb as our legislators think.

You have the authority and duty to be a check and balance on the abuse of power by the other two branches of government, and to thereby protect our rights. If you do not help us, our rights will continue to be nullified by the Legislature. It is my hope that you will do so.

Signature: _Kathryn Gritton_____ Date: _03/24/19_____
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