

Statement by Petitioner Rose Cowan

I shouldn't have to explain my medical history to a court. I voted for a law, Proposition 2, because my body would benefit from the whole plant.

Years ago, I was diagnosed with Epidural Fibrosis I've undergone a failed history of spinal surgeries, including a 3-disc neck fusion in 2012. In 2015, I became disabled after working in the Medical Field for over 20 years, and was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and 18 other diagnoses.

Fibromyalgia, in particular, is caused by a lack of sufficient cannabinoids in my body. We all have natural cannabinoids in our bodies and mine doesn't produce enough. I also suffer from Chronic Fatigue, Spinal Stenosis, and Epidural Fibrosis. Scar tissue grew after surgeries and is pressing on my sciatic nerve root, the largest nerve in my body, from my lower spine to my foot.

I suffer anxiety. I can't sit or stand for more than 30 min at a time. I have trouble sleeping.

Cannabis helps to relieve and manage the horrific pain I'm in. It helps me sleep and have a better quality of life. I'm on morphine and other opioids as well. My goal is to wean off those opioids and use cannabis exclusively.

In addition to my experience, there are numerous studies indicating that cannabis can ease the pain of for those who suffer from Fibromyalgia and other ailments. A chronic pain patient should have the right for full plant benefits, as well as all oils available.

I'm asking the court to please reverse back to Proposition 2. We should have access to products from neighboring states like Colorado, Nevada and Arizona.

My son is a combat Marine Veteran and had to move to Arizona because he has PTSD and cannabis is the only thing that helps him. The VA had him on so many meds he was losing his mind. My son is only 28 years old.

My doctor works in an IHC building and I cannot get a prescription for affirmative defense. He claims he cannot write one because he is "in a group practice".

I feel the Legislature has kicked me, my vote and my voice to the curb. I am in pain 24/7 365-days a year!

You are only one step away from a surgery gone wrong, a car accident, cancer or some other trauma that leaves you in constant, agonizing pain.

Signature: ROSE COWAN Date: 3/24/19

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