Good morning Chairman McIlhinney and Ferlo and members of the Committee. My name is John Harvey and I am from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

I am submitting this testimony to urge the Committee to pass the Governor Raymond Shafer Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis act.

Hi just to let you know that I moved to Pittsburgh, PA to be with my daughter who is in graduate school here. I attended graduate school, and have two masters degree. One of which is in telecommunications engineering, and the other is in criminal justice.

Prior to moving here, I lived in San Diego, CA where my doctor prescribed marijuana as an alternative to the various opiates and benzodiazepines I had been taking, which allowed me to stop taking these heavy-duty drugs after having been on them for years. Now that I am in Pennsylvania, I had no alternative but to see a pain specialist who is going to put me back on the opiates and benzodiazepines.

I suffer from a number of conditions including chronic pain and PTSD, and would much rather be able to function, relatively pain free as a result of using marijuana, than being zoned out on opiates and benzodiazepines. My choices are to leave Pennsylvania or grin and bear it, and go back on the heavy drugs. If my daughter did not still have a year left of school to complete, I would be out of here in a flash. Please support the legalization of medical marijuana.

Thank you.

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