

“Pain is why I use marijuana, not to get high.”

Name: Susan Rumler

Age: 50

Home: Cuba

Profession: Disabled

Disease: Severe pain and nerve damage from six back surgeries



Dear legislators:

After six back surgeries and numerous cocktails of prescription drugs, my quality of life had diminished to the point of depression. I rarely slept well. Eating and moving around were often onerous tasks. Quite simply, my life was a living hell.

I am currently prescribed the strongest form of Vicodin (Norco), of which I take 10 mg four to six times a day for pain. I top this off with Valium four times a day.

Most people are lucky enough to have never experienced the pain I must endure daily. The fact that very few people understand what I'm going through can be very frustrating.

Luckily, I have been able to find some relief with medical marijuana. It has helped ease my pain, reduced the number of pills I take, and given me hope and a feeling of normality when I needed it most.

I do not use marijuana because I want to; I use it because I have to. Please keep this in mind when opponents claim that patients like me just want to get high – trust me, I'd love nothing more than to not need marijuana at all, but I do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Rumler". The signature is fluid and cursive.