

The Board of Directors of the Health District of Northern Larimer County has taken the following position on HB 1284, Concerning Regulation of Medical Marijuana:

- While the Health District is sensitive to the few people who have serious, chronic and debilitating conditions and may be helped by marijuana when prescriptions drugs do not work, we have significant concerns about the public health implications of the program as currently conducted and, on balance, believe **it is important to prioritize public health, safety and welfare over individual access**. To this end, it is preferable to put high burdens around access in order to protect public health, safety and welfare
- It is not clear that the voters intended to allow dispensaries, nor that they are necessary to meet the intent of the law. If dispensaries are allowed to exist, they must be tightly regulated.
- Regulations must be enacted this session and must be stringent enough to prevent diversion of marijuana for street sale and recreational use. Regulations should cover everyone connected with the medical marijuana program – growers, dispensaries, physicians, caregivers and patients. Strong penalties for diversion should be included.
- Legislation **must assure** that communities can be more but not less restrictive than the provisions of the state law with regard to regulations around dispensaries.
- There should be a limit on the quantity of marijuana a registered medical marijuana user or caregiver may possess at any given time. For example, a maximum amount that could be purchased in one week. This is in keeping with the way physicians regulate access to almost any prescription drug – prescriptions are written for a specific quantity of drug over a specific time frame.
- The state should prohibit marijuana being sold in a food or drink. We are concerned about sale of marijuana infused food products because, at present, food and drink preparation is not conducted in accordance with state and local department of public health sanitation regulation and inspection. There is no way for a consumer to be assured that marijuana infused food and drink products are safe for consumption.
- Legislation should include a strict definition of caregiver to ensure that simply supplying marijuana does not make one a caregiver.
- Dispensaries, if allowed to exist, should be nonprofit.