

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society: Medical marijuana may “reduce neuronal damage...thereby possibly limiting disease progression, perhaps as an add-on to other treatments”. -- Excerpt from the National MS Society’s Clinical Advisory Board findings (July, 2008) available at nmss.org.

Those same findings also conclude many MS patients are using marijuana for symptomatic relief from pain and spasticity. The possibilities of neuronal protection and limiting disease progression make it all the more important that Wisconsin’s “Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act” be passed in the 2009-2010 legislative session. As with last session, the principal sponsor of the Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act will be State Assembly Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison).

Current Wisconsin law provides no exemption from prosecution for MS patients and others with debilitating illnesses who use cannabis to treat their symptoms. If enacted into law, the Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act would protect Wisconsin MS patients and others with debilitating conditions from arrest and prosecution and allow them or a designated caregiver to possess and grow a small amount of cannabis for medical use.

The Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act is named after WI patient Jacki Rickert, a resident of Mondovi WI who suffers from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Advanced Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and other ailments. The Founder of Is My Medicine Legal YET? (immly.org), Jacki was approved for federal medical cannabis supplies in the early 1990's, but never provided with her medicine. A close friend of the late New Jersey MS patient Cheryl Miller, Jacki has worked tirelessly for decades for legal access to medical cannabis.

The updated Jacki Rickert MMJ Act mirrors the law that recently took effect in Michigan legalizing medical cannabis. It was passed by a 63% margin by Michigan voters in Nov. 2008 and gained a majority in every Michigan county. Polling has found over 80% support for medical cannabis in Wisconsin, and the Jacki Rickert MMJ Act has the support of state healthcare organizations including the WI Nurses Association.

While awaiting the draft bill and introduction, supporters are encouraged to contact their State Assembly representative and State Senator and let them know that Rep. Pocan’s office is sponsoring the Jacki Rickert MMJ Act and request they cosponsor this legislation when it is introduced. Supporters are also urged to contact the office of WI Gov. Jim Doyle and ask that he support the Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act when it is introduced and work for passage.

Who Are My Legislators?

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx>

Legislative Hotline:

* In Madison: 266-9960

* Toll-free: 1-800-362-9472

Gov. Jim Doyle: Madison: 608-266-1212, Milwaukee: 414-227-4344, Northern Office: 715-762-5900.

More Information:

* Is My Medicine Legal YET? www.immly.org

* Madison NORML www.MadisonNORML.org

Or contact: Gary Storck at 608-241-8922 gstorck@immly.org

Now is the time a well-timed call will make a difference!