



05 March 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee

My name is Alexis Bortell. I am an 11 year-old medical cannabis refugee and my family was 'adopted' by Colorado after Texas Legislators turned their back on me two years ago. Thanks to the medical cannabis I am able to get here in Colorado I am now over 700 days seizure free.

I lost everything when we moved to Colorado including my home, my family, my church, my teachers, and my friends. There are many cannabis refugees in Colorado just like me. I am not here to talk about me though. I am here to protect my dad and all of my cannabis refugee friends.

My parents are both military veterans. My dad is a disabled vet. He had a brain injury and was exposed to radiation in the military. He gets very sick and like me he is a cannabis patient. Sometimes when he is sick I cry. Cannabis helps him eat. It also stops his headaches so he can go outside with me and go to events like our daddy daughter dance we went to last week. It was our first ever dance because of my seizures. Without cannabis we couldn't have gone because I would probably be in heaven.

One of the many problems with 1220 & 1221 is that dad and I both need more than 12 plants to maintain our health. Our doctors say we do and they are good doctors. I ask that you keep this important decision in the hands of doctors who know what their patients need. What if the government told you that you could no longer have the amount of medicine you need to stay alive? We fled a terrible war on patients in Texas and just want to help our neighbors here in Colorado and be left alone. Cannabis helps us do that.

To me, this bill isn't about plant counts at all. This is really about who gets to grow their own medicine and live and who can't and might die. My question to you is this: "Who from my family should die? Me or my dad?"

Thank you and God bless.

*Alexis Bortell*

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