



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

STEVE ARWOOD
DIRECTOR

March 14, 2014

I have received and reviewed the recommendation of the March 6, 2014, meeting of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Review Panel. The Panel has recommended that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) be added to the list of qualifying conditions allowed under Michigan law.

The panel voted 6-2 in favor of PTSD as a qualifying condition. The Chief Medical Executive of the state of Michigan was an affirmative vote for approval. In any decision I make, I must carefully consider the recommendation of the Chief Medical Executive and members of the Panel. Further, as this is the first time that the list of qualifying conditions has been expanded outside of the original 2008 citizen initiative making this law, very careful consideration must be given.

While I am approving the recommendation, I do remain very concerned with the scope of this approval and the process in general. It is not within the scope of my authority to condition the recommendation or make changes to the process. However, I can state my concerns.

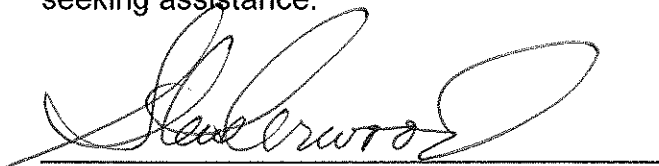
First, the condition of PTSD is a mental health issue. Granting this approval steps Michigan away from the use of marijuana for disease of the body or chronic pain symptoms of a physical nature.

Second, veterans receiving VA benefits should consult their veteran service officer or the VA facility from which they are receiving care to find out how the use of medically prescribed marijuana affects their individual treatment plan.

Third, although the citizen initiated action of 2008 allows for the provision of medical marijuana to patients under the age of 18, I remain concerned that there may be insufficient evidence on the effect of marijuana on minors.

Finally, it remains my belief that expansion of the statute should be in the hands of the legislature, not the Director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Given that the legislature is currently discussing several marijuana related topics, further legalization efforts belong with our elected representatives.

I put my trust in the medical professionals in Michigan to certify the use of medical marihuana for PTSD with the utmost care and attention to the patient seeking assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Arwood", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Arwood
Director