

From: Rosalyn Baker rozhbaker@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Form Submission - New Form - Legal Cannabis
Date: February 10, 2019 at 11:04 PM
To: Scott Goold [REDACTED]

RB

Scott,

I'm trying to expand access and I don't want children adversely affected because they get product not meant for them. Access to medical cannabis has advanced under my leadership. I haven't been working on this matter as long as you but that doesn't mean that I'm not interested in helping patients who need this medicine. I wouldn't be working on 329 revisions if I didn't care. I do not have the authority to change the federal scheduling. I have advanced measures to make sure that just because someone has a 329 card they are not discriminated against in the work place. Caution? I'm trying to make sure we can advance protections and access. I acknowledge that we may have different points of view but I'm not your enemy. You keep mixing federal laws and advances we are making here. It may not be fast enough for you but yours may not be the prevailing view. Often legislation is the art of the possible. It's important to keep pushing the envelop. I don't believe it's all or nothing. I suppose on some of these matters we will just have to agree to disagree.
Aloha, Roz

Sent with Aloha from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2019, at 1:20 PM, Scott Goold <scott@infoimagination.org> wrote:

Aloha Senator Baker,

I truly appreciate you took the time to respond. I respect you for that! Thank you!

Nothing you wrote is new to me ... I've been working on this policy issue for over 20 years. Millions of Americans have been arrested due to the War on Drugs. Thousands of Americans have died due to federal and state failure in this policy area.

Yet I'm angry with you ... you demand caution when Americans are dying. If your child or family member needed medical cannabis, you would change your position. My worldview isn't the problem. Your worldview, that of the federal government, must change. Cannabis is not the problem. Government policy is the problem.

I believe you have a good heart. I believe you're compassionate and smart. Why then do you act irrationally and callously? Yes, policy must evolve. You demand caution. Caution isn't evolution. It's gridlock. The entire nation of Canada has legal medical and recreational cannabis. Some 30 U.S. states have some legal form of cannabis. One in five Americans now live in a legal cannabis state.

I wrote to Lee Cataluna of the StarAdvertiser today. Be the Great Leader you are destined to be. Yes, there are obstacles; yes, there are challenges. Didn't the first Tahitians face challenges? Yet they made it here. Those of us living in these islands descent from Bold, Courageous People. This is our heritage. We are raised to do the impossible. Please do not force us into deadly opioid drugs or the arms of street criminals. Please be the beautiful, compassionate soul that you truly are!

My letter to Ms. Cataluna:

Cc: Davis Shapiro, Volcanic Ash, StarAdvertiser
Senator Rox Baker, Democrat - Maui
Senate-Candidate Lynn Mariano, Republican - O'ahu

Aloha Ms. Cataluna,

Thank you for your article today. I was raised by politically-active parents. They believed in government. They were depression-era babies who survived WWII. They learned to respect government. I was nurtured in the idealism of John Kennedy, who believed Americans could do anything — if we worked together.

In high school, I was class president, an All American athlete and a leader. I was successful at Boys State, worked closely with my governor, and my U.S. Senator appointed me to Air Force Academy. I believed in government.

Today, I'm a libertarian. Government is the problem. Although I was a liberal who voted against Ronald Reagan, he was correct when he said the most dangerous words in the U.S. language are, "I'm from the government and here to help."

State Senator Roz Baker chairs the prestigious Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee. She irrationally plays god with our lives. Her committee rejected our proposal to allow cannabis retailers to sell edibles. Ms. Baker demands we SMOKE cannabis, which my expert doctors say is bad for my health.

Senator Baker claims these products are attractive to kids. Have you been to a cannabis dispensary? Has Senator Baker? There are security guards at the doors. One must have a valid HI state ID and 329 Cannabis Medical Card to

Baker: There are security guards at the doors. One must have a valid ID and OZS Cannabis medical card to enter. There is a second, locked door to the cannabis room. Kids are not allowed without their legal caregiver. Kids have easy access to booze or cigarettes — not legal cannabis.

Vaping is attractive to kids. Texting is attractive to kids. Speeding on our roads is attractive to kids ... kids are not interested in cannabis. They prefer prescription drugs like Adderall, which helps them cram for exams.

Senator Baker says people, if edibles are not properly labeled, won't know how to use them. Edibles are properly labeled today. I'm a graphic designer. I can help improve labels if the senator would ask me (and others).

When Colorado legalized cannabis recreationally, NY Times liberal writer, Maureen Dowd, someone I admire, traveled to the state and visited a dispensary. The bud tender showed her many varieties of edibles. The bud tender "educated" her. Ms. Dowd was warned not to eat too much. Nobody knows how much is right for her ... body weight, age, gender, metabolic rate, etc., all factor into this equation. Ms. Dowd was instructed to start slow, wait, and then modify. Ms. Dowd didn't follow the directions. User error, not systemic failure.

Ms. Dowd ate more than she had been advised. She overdosed. She didn't die. People don't die from cannabis OD. It's like a bad hangover. She felt like crap. She felt dark and gloomy. She felt terrible. Eight hours later, the cannabis left her system. She was fine. She also was smarter. She knows what cannabis OD is today. She is more careful. She listens to bud tenders and reads labels. She was like a kid whose mother said, "don't touch the hot burner." Ms. Dowd touched the burner.

Senator Baker likely doesn't use medical cannabis. She likely has never suffered cannabis OD. She isn't educated. Thus, she says, "It's just important to proceed with caution." Caution for her is a death sentence for many Americans. Senator Baker kills people!

I can barely walk. My pain is extreme. Senator Baker doesn't care about me; she treats people like me as second-class citizens. She obstructs progress in this area — forcing us into deadly opioids or street drugs. She encourages criminal behavior. The policies of her committee fund criminals in our beautiful state. Over 50 percent of the illicit drug trade is cannabis. Senator Baker fuels thugs, drug dealers and very bad people.

These groups supply the keiki in our state. Kids can get street cannabis any time they want. Kids cannot get cannabis from a legal dispensary. Regulation protects kids. A regulated market puts criminals out of the drug trade. A regulated market keeps cannabis out of the hands of our most vulnerable. A regulated market ends criminal behavior and provides taxes to our needy state. Senator Baker votes for a broken government.

Logic dictates our government move quickly to regulate a legal market for cannabis. Senator Baker relies on emotion, rather than logic. I have written to her to volunteer my skills. I am a certified specialist in addiction, particularly opioids. Some 150 Americans die each day due to these deadly drugs. As you know, NOBODY has ever died from cannabis OD — never!

Today, when I vote, I vote AGAINST incumbents. AOC, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, is my favorite politician. Some of her proposals are extremely idealistic — but at least she has the balls to try. President Kennedy had courage. MLK had courage. FDR had courage. The first Tahitians who arrived on Big Island had courage. James Cook had courage.

Our current politicians are risk-averse and cowardly. They can't work together; they can't move us forward. They urge caution — because they are RICH and PRIVILEGED. If Senator Baker hurt like me, she would demand and get medical cannabis edibles. She cannot empathize with people who are suffering because she doesn't suffer.

It's a sad time in our state and nation. Politicians have failed the people and our government. Logic dictates The People will rise up and take back their country. Historically, corrupt politicians were tarred, feathered and run out on a rail. Wouldn't it be easier if politicians simply did their job logically?

Mahalo for your excellent article!

On Feb 9, 2019, at 11:05 PM, Rosalyn Baker <rozhbaker@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha Scott,

It isn't the State of Hawaii that deemed cannabis to be a schedule 1 drug with no redeeming medicinal value. The federal government did. According to the federal government any drug on Schedules 1 and 2 cannot be legally sold or "farmed" or even have research conducted. There's been a working group in Hawaii comprised of patients and others to help establish Hawaii's medical cannabis laws and I imagine our laws will continue to evolve. There are a handful of conditions for which Hawaii law allows patients to receive a "329" card in order to access medical cannabis through the dispensaries. Hawaii has joined a number of other states to create a process to bring medical cannabis to certified patients by creating licensed dispensaries, grow sites and testing of the product to make sure it is free of molds, pesticides and other contaminants. We are working on a measure to set up a protocol for edibles. Don't know

wether those efforts will be succesful this session or not. I agree that smoking is not good for anyone and not the preferred way to use medical cannabis. We're also working on a decriminalization measure but all or those efforts don't change how the federal government views cannabis. I believe because we have a regulated quality control process in place for medical cannabis that patients can be assured of the efficacy of the products purchased thru the dispensaries. Currently dried flower, tinctures, lozenges and oils are the types of products sold in Hawaii dispensaries. The regulation of cannabis is an evolving area of law. No state that i'm aware of requires regular health insurance to cover medical cannabis. Several states have their workers compensation plans cover a portion of the cost of medical cannabis. We have a bill under consideration for that as well. I'm sure this information won't change your world view but i did want to give you some basic information and answer some of the misinformation in your email.

Best regards,
Roz Baker

On Sat, Feb 9, 2019 at 12:50 PM Squarespace <no-reply@squarespace.info> wrote:
Name: Scott Goold

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Subject: Legal Cannabis

Message: Aloha Honorable Senator Baker,

I wrote yesterday to describe the situation many people in Hawai'i and across the nation suffer. Politicians treat us as second-class citizens. Why do you hate on us?

The federal govt classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug. They claim there is NO medical use for this drug. You know this is false. Our government is wrong. Politicians are wrong.

At the same time, the federal govt approved the use of opioids for pain relief. Some 150 Americans each day die from opioid OD. Our government is wrong. Politicians are wrong.

My parents were teachers. They told us to work hard in school and get a good education. They were right. I'm smart due to their care and love. I have studied cannabis and opioids. I use cannabis. I am smart. My government is wrong.

Now you say the time isn't "right" for talk about cannabis legalization for recreational use. I don't care personally either way. I don't use alcohol or cannabis recreationally. About 80% of Americans use alcohol. We kill tens of thousands annually.

Because politicians and government in Hawai'i restrict the market for cannabis, patients like me must pay hundreds of dollars per month for our medication. As I said yesterday, I could get opioids for a \$5 copay.

I pay 100% of my doctor and licensing costs as a MedCan patient. Why do you penalize me? Non-MedCan patients go to a doctor for \$25. I paid nearly \$200. Why am I a second-class citizen?

Due to politicians and government in Hawai'i, there are limited supplied of medication. Why do you limit my medical solutions? And, these are more costly here than mainland.

I pay \$10/gram on mainland for more options. I pay \$20/gr here for fewer. This is for flower, which generally is smoked. It's not as good for our health as edibles.

Edibles cost \$40/package here; they are \$15 for same quantify on mainland. I must pay 100% of these costs. I may pay hundreds of dollars per month. Non-MedCan patients pay \$5 copay for a month supply.

A full legal market for medical and recreational cannabis would lead to lower prices and more options. Government and politicians in Hawai'i punish us. Why do you do this?

I'm a political scientist. My parents urged me to be active in politics. I grew up respecting American democracy. I've learned it's broken. People get elected to tell others what to do. Politicians who are not expects decide for us -- and frequently are wrong.

Your policies force patients like me to spend more for inferior products. You seem to believe you are pono in your actions. Why do you punish us? Why do you treat us as second-class citizens? Why do you believe you are right and we are wrong?

This is not aloha. This is not kindness. This is arrogance and hubris. You don't know my medical needs. I will talk with you. I will meet with you. Please get to know people like me. People stop judging me, judging us. We are not the problem.

We pay 100% of our medical costs -- and pay taxes to the state. We should be considered smart, wise people. You treat us as criminals and idiots. Remember the government approved opioids. Some 150 Americans die each day. The government says there is NO medical use for cannabis. Millions get relief everyday.

How long will you continue this failure? Please get back to me.

Thank you and mahalo!

(Sent via Roz Baker)

Scott Goold
www.infoimagination.org

"I Can't Accept Not Trying"
