



For Immediate Release - Thursday, August 23, 2018

SALT LAKE CITY, UT - For the last four years, we the volunteer patients of TRUCE have literally worked through our pain to to educate the public and change Utah law so that we can legally access the relief that works best for us. It has not been easy; some of our patients have died waiting for relief, some have fled Utah, some have ended up in surgery and others have pushed through their daily suffering at personal expense to promote this issue. We do not take the opposition's statements at the press conference today lightly. We believe it is time to put these patients over politics.

No answers were given today and no alternative was offered to the ballot initiative. What was offered was more talk, more negotiations and more falsehoods. We are incredibly disappointed in the statement released today because their arguments are factually incorrect and harmful to the welfare of patients. It is imperative for those of us who are suffering that we all live in the truth.

The truth is that not only has teen use not gone up in medical and adult-use states, [federal data shows it has actually gone down](#). The truth is that there is [no conclusive evidence](#) medical access to cannabis increases car accidents. To further that point, the use of pure synthetic THC - the compound being associated with driving impairment - is a Schedule III drug ([Marinol](#)) that the U.S. FDA concludes is safe to drive on when a tolerance develops. The truth is that nobody has ever died of an overdose of cannabis, anywhere or at any time. The truth is we have [thousands of years of human history](#) using this plant successfully as medicine and current [scientific evidence points to the efficacy of the use of the botanical plant](#), not for-profit pharmaceutical derivatives that we are being encouraged to choose instead.

This isn't about recreational use, it is about the quality of life of every suffering Utahn. We encourage all Utahns to get the facts and decide for themselves. We cannot afford to lose this opportunity for safe access and we fear many of us will have to leave or will suffer further because we must either continue breaking the law, buying unregulated products, taking dangerous pharmaceutical opiates or simply going without.

Utah patients have been watching for 20 years now as patients in other states safely and successfully use it to relieve their suffering. We deserve this opportunity as well.

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