

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

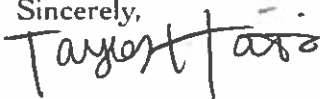
My name is Taylor Haislip. I'm a sophomore at White Knoll High School from Lexington District One. I wanted to take the time and provide you with helpful information on medicine. In my English II Honors class, we have been doing Project Based Learning on a global issue, and I chose the use of medical marijuana. I have done a lot of research on this matter and wanted to share my concern with you.

The use of medical marijuana is not legal in South Carolina, though it has the potential to save many lives and decrease crime rates. Statistically, marijuana is a lot safer than other legal substances (i.e alcohol, tobacco, and some prescription drugs) and there has not been any recorded deaths from its use. Not only is it safer, it is also better alternative to chemotherapy, which is my main concern. Chemotherapy is very ineffective; on average, it has a success rate of about 2.1%. I found in another study of more than 600 cancer patients who died within 30 days of receiving treatment that chemotherapy caused death in 27% of cases. Marijuana has been used medically for hundreds of years now, and has a very long list of diseases and disorders it helps treat and/or cure.

Not only does marijuana have medicinal benefits, but the legalization of marijuana would also reduce crime rates (shown in Colorado). Every day, hundreds and hundreds of people go to jail for possession of marijuana and will even get more time in prison than a rapist or child molester would, this is outrageous. If South Carolina were to legalize medicinal marijuana then more people's lives would be saved and also crime rates would decrease.

Please take this into consideration, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Haislip". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Taylor Haislip.
5643 Platt Springs Rd
Lexington, South Carolina 29073