



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date May 15, 2016

Name: Dr. Michael Brown

Address: 7019 Oakridge Rd.
Hillsboro, OH 45133

Telephone: (937) 763-8420

Organization Representing: Southside Praise and Worship Center

Testifying on Bill Number: 523

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: I am willing to discuss any proposed
questions.



621 South East St. Hillsboro, OR 97123

Phone: (937) 393-2772

May 15, 2016

To the Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on the issue at hand. As the pastor of Southside Praise and Worship Center we are involved with the recovery efforts of those who suffer from substance addictions here in Highland County. There have been many discussions among different people and of various forms and stages of addictions. The proposed bill for medical marijuana purpose only does have merit although some concerns still arise.

Every walk of life seems to be affected; no one is safe from the effects of this substance. As I talk with those addicted a familiar theme begins to weave throughout our conversation. That first high supposedly so innocent just leads to a greater desire of self-satisfaction; the next high and higher; on and on; the circle ever spiraling further and further downward to newer and stronger drugs. Each year there seems a lower age group becoming involved and the risks reach even further as drug overdoses ramp up in the state I call home, so understandably my concerns as a pastor, father, grandparent, and friend are all valid for drugs of all forms; for they are stealing the future of our nation, as well as, our state.

I believe God has provided everything on this earth when used properly as a benefit for all mankind and every disease a natural cure but in our search we often open only another door of addiction all in the name of science. Although we do not wish to admit the thing that drives almost every bill is profit or gain of some sort. I have read the bill its safe guards reasonable but the questions arise can or even are we able to contain that which we let loose? Assuredly I wish that each and every victim of diseases are given ample opportunity to secure a life as free from pain as possible and science has proven that marijuana has some medical benefits.

Let us consider carefully as we tread in unfamiliar waters carefully reviewing each and every obstacle as we proceed. Remember today that we will set a precedent for many will look upon this decision of state law as a mile marker on the judicial highway. It would seem that once a vehicle of any sort loses control it only picks up speed as it heads to its crash point. So, I ask?

May 15, 2016

Page 2

Are we in control, can we control its sale, and are we positioned at this critical time to oversee the proper distribution of even medical marijuana?

Much discussion will be heard today many view points as well as concerns, so let us lean towards the side of caution carefully. If we can maintain medical controls with discrete judicial regulations, then maybe we can secure a bill that will; with all caution; allow proper use of said substance.

With all due respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Michael D. Brown".

Dr. Michael D. Brown

Pastor

Southside Praise and Worship Center

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