

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We are writing to urge your Department to reconsider enforcement actions surrounding medical cannabis dispensaries in our state, such as actions against Berkeley Patients Group and Harborside Health Center, given the recent comprehensive and stringent regulations signed into law by CA Governor Jerry Brown last month. As you know, the package of bills signed into law creates an enforceable framework for governing virtually every aspect of the medicinal cannabis industry — from licensing and taxation to quality control, shipping, packaging and pesticide standards.

We are concerned that the Department of Justice (DOJ) continues to threaten individuals and businesses acting within the scope of state laws on the medicinal use of marijuana despite formal guidance on exercising prosecutorial discretion and recent changes to federal law. It is counterproductive and economically prohibitive to continue a path of hostility toward dispensaries. Moreover, it appears to directly counter the letter and spirit of Section 538 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, is counter to the spirit of Deputy Attorney General Cole's memo of August 2013, and is in direct opposition to the evolving view toward medical marijuana, the will of the people and, by now, common sense.

The will of the both voters at the ballot box and in state legislatures across the country should be respected. That is why we strongly believe that it would be a mistake for the federal government to continue to pursue prosecutions of those operating in compliance with state law.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress


DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress


SAM FARR
Member of Congress