

Office of the Mayor

Tom Bates  
Mayor

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

President pro Tempore Darrel Steinberg  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker John Pérez  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown, President Steinberg, and Speaker Perez:

We are writing to you as the mayors of California's leading cities to urge immediate action on the issue of medical cannabis.

As you are aware, the voters of California passed the "Compassionate Use Act of 1996" (Proposition 215) with 55.7% of the vote and support has dramatically increased over the last 17 years. A recent Field Poll shows record support for medical cannabis throughout California. 72% of voters support the state's medical marijuana laws, and 66 percent said they oppose the federal government's crackdown on legal dispensaries. In our urban communities where most dispensaries are located, that support is often over 80%. With the recent passage of marijuana laws in Washington and Colorado, the Department of Justice has indicated that it will review policies for states that have legalized marijuana or medical cannabis. It is critical that 17 years after the passage of the "Compassionate Use Act" that California create guidelines for medical cannabis. Former Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued guidelines in 2003, which were followed by guidelines in 2008 by then-Attorney General Jerry Brown. However, the State Legislature has never passed those guidelines, which are critically needed for local governments, law enforcement and patients.

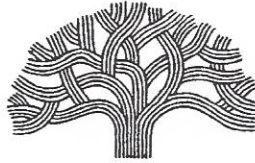
Well-regulated medical cannabis dispensaries have been beneficial to our local communities. They provide quality jobs, benefits and a safe working environment. They allow medical cannabis patients to purchase safe medicine in a secure environment, rather than on the streets from drug dealers. Dispensaries also provide much needed tax revenue to local governments, which often is dedicated to public safety and other quality of life issues. As mayors, it is critical that these revenues are paid to local government rather than to drug dealers and drug cartels.

We urge the Governor's office and the Legislature to craft sensible medical cannabis guidelines and provide clarity to us on the local level.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814



President pro Tempore Darrel Steinberg  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

MAYOR JEAN QUAN  
CITY OF OAKLAND

Assembly Speaker John Pérez  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Sincerely,

Mayor Edwin Lee, San Francisco



Mayor Jean Quan, Oakland

Mayor Bob Filner, San Diego

Mayor Bob Foster, Long Beach

Mayor Kevin Johnson, Sacramento

Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles

Cc: Lt. Gov. Gavin Newson  
Senator Mark Leno  
Assemblymember Tom Ammiano  
California League of Cities  
U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag  
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder  
California Attorney General Kamala Harris





**BOB FILNER**  
MAYOR

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Assembly Speaker John Pérez  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Legislative Guidelines for Medical Marijuana**

Dear Governor Brown, President Steinberg and Speaker Perez,

I am writing to you as Mayor of San Diego to urge immediate action on the issue of medical cannabis. It is critical that, 17 years after the passage of the "Compassionate Use Act of 1996," the California legislature must resolve some of the biggest barriers to local implementation by establishing guidelines for medical marijuana. The pending Senate Bill 439 is a good start.

California voters passed the Compassionate Use Act (Proposition 215) with 55.7 percent of the vote, and support has increased dramatically in the 17 years since. A recent Field Poll shows record support for medical cannabis throughout California whereby 72 percent of voters support the state's medical marijuana laws, and 66 percent said they oppose the federal government's crackdown on legal dispensaries. In our urban communities where most dispensaries are located, that support is often over 80 percent. With the recent passage of marijuana laws in Washington and Colorado, the Department of Justice has indicated that it will review policies for states that have legalized marijuana or medical cannabis.

Following the passage of the Compassionate Use Act, Former Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued guidelines in 2003, which were followed by Attorney General Brown's guidelines in 2008. However, the State Legislature has never passed those guidelines, which are critically needed for local governments, law enforcement and patients to ensure uniform and fair treatment under the law.

Well-regulated medical cannabis dispensaries can be beneficial to our local communities. First and foremost, safe and ready access to medical marijuana for those in need can change the quality of life for those suffering among us. Further, dispensaries can provide quality jobs, benefits and a safe working environment. They allow medical cannabis patients to purchase safe medicine in a secure environment, rather than on the streets from drug dealers. Dispensaries can also provide much needed tax revenue to local governments, which can be dedicated to public safety and other quality-of-life issues. Of course, given these local concerns, it is critical that these revenues stay with local government rather than go to drug dealers or cartels.

I urge the Governor's office and the Legislature to craft sensible medical cannabis guidelines, to provide clarity to local governments, and finally to implement the will of a majority of Californians who believe in compassionate use.

I look forward to working with you to achieve these laudable goals.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER  
Mayor

cc: Mayor Edwin Lee, San Francisco  
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles  
Mayor Jean Quan, Oakland  
Mayor Bob Foster, Long Beach  
Mayor Kevin Johnson, Sacramento  
Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley  
Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom  
Senator Ben Hueso  
Senator Marty Block  
Senator Mark Leno  
Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins  
Assemblymember Tom Ammiano  
California Attorney General Kamala Harris  
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder  
California League of Cities

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



EDWIN M. LEE  
MAYOR

April 19, 2013

Governor Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker John Pérez  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

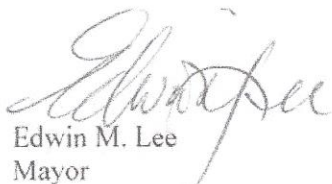
Dear Governor Brown, President pro Tem Steinberg, and Speaker Pérez:

I am writing to encourage action on the issue of clarifying State-regulation of medical cannabis. It is my understanding that the State of California has not adopted guidelines for medical cannabis. I appreciate the leadership in 2008 by then-Attorney General Brown on this matter. Those guidelines did much to clarify this complicated legal and public safety issue. However, given the recent passage of marijuana laws in Washington and Colorado as well as the recent indication by the Department of Justice that it will review policies for states that have legalized marijuana or medical cannabis, I believe that now is a sensible time to put forward formal, adopted guidelines for review.

As a local jurisdiction operating in a web of federal, state and local regulation pertaining to medical cannabis, I can attest that clarification on this issue is badly needed. As we strive to comply with Prop. 215, we have come to the conclusion that more guidance from the State would be beneficial to our local enforcement efforts and to those seeking benefits from medicinal marijuana. I urge the Governor's Office and the Legislature to craft sensible medical cannabis guidelines and provide clarity to us on the local level.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

Cc:

The Honorable Mark Leno, Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Phil Ting, Assembly Member, 19<sup>th</sup> District  
Barbara Garcia, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health

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