


Councilmember David Grosso

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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15 To declare the existence of an emergency, due to congressional review, with respect to the need to
16 amend the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 to increase
17 the number of medical marijuana dispensaries that may be registered to operate in the
18 District from 5 to 6, and to require the Mayor to open an application period for the
19 registration of a medical marijuana dispensary in Ward 7 or Ward 8.
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21 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
22 resolution may be cited as the “Medical Marijuana Dispensary Congressional Review
23 Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2017”.

24 Sec. 2. (a) The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999
25 effective July 27, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-210; D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.01 *et seq.*), established a
26 medical marijuana program in the District. Pursuant to this act, the Mayor can register a
27 maximum of 8 dispensaries to ensure that qualifying patients have adequate access to medical
28 marijuana.

29 (b) Although approximately 25% of all medical marijuana qualifying patients reside in
30 Wards 7 and 8, there are no medical marijuana dispensaries east of the Anacostia River.

31 (c) A medical marijuana program that requires qualifying patients to travel across the city
32 does not encourage the utilization of that program. Additionally, research has shown that travel
33 often serves as a barrier to the use of healthcare services.

34 (d) Requiring the Mayor to open an application period will help the District ensure that all
35 of its residents are able to utilize the medical marijuana program as intended.

36 (e) Currently, emergency legislation is in place to achieve this objective. The emergency
37 legislation, the Medical Marijuana Dispensary Emergency Amendment Act of 2016, Act 21-573,
38 however, will expire March 19, 2017. Temporary legislation, the Medical Marijuana Dispensary
39 Temporary Amendment Act of 2016, is expected to become law on April 1, 2017. Additional
40 emergency legislation is needed to fill the gap between the expiration of the existing emergency
41 legislation and the effectiveness of the temporary legislation.

42 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
43 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
44 Medical Marijuana Dispensary Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2017 be
45 adopted after a single reading.

46 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.