

Hi, my name is Bonnie Carroll. I have lived in Arcata for most of the last 27 years and am planning to stay through retirement.

I am a therapist with a private practice in McKinleyville. I help folks who are dealing with mental health issues. I love my job and want to continue doing it in McKinleyville for decades to come.

But I have major medical issues, including Hashimoto's, Rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia. Fibromyalgia is a nerve communication disorder that causes widespread chronic pain.

What we now know is that leading pain experts recognize cannabis as a more effective treatment for nerve communication disorders than any opiates.

I'm not sure how much you have all experimented with the recreational and medicinal benefits of cannabis, but they are two separate things.

You can experience the medicinal benefits of cannabis without the recreations aspects and likewise you can experience the recreational without any medicinal benefits.

The cannabis sold in the dispensaries is usually not sold for its medicinal benefits. Rather most folks just want to get high. But medical patients are different. We just want pain relief and are sometimes willing to tolerate the cognitive impairment to obtain the welcomed pain relief. Because it is hard walking around in pain all day!!!!

Medicinal cannabis strains are cultivated for the medicinal effects, and those are often found in strains of medicinal hemp. We have just started to explore the medicinal benefits of hemp.

And honestly, there isn't much money in this endeavor. Many of the medicinal hemp growers are at it to help their family and friends with chronic health issues.

So when you are talking about putting a moratorium or taxes on growing medicinal cannabis in Humboldt, you're also putting taxes and/or a moratorium on medicinal hemp that will directly affect the medical patients. So I hope you will keep that in mind when you determine whether or not to put a moratorium or taxes on medicinal hemp strains.

I understand the needs of the recreational cannabis industry. The pollinating male plants would ruin the crop. But I wonder if you could restrict the pollinating males to prophylactic green houses or something that allows the continued propagation and strain development without putting the recreational growers out of business. Also, a reduced tax for medicinal hemp growers would help them grow and provide more medication for the patients.

Thank You. Bonnie M. Carroll,

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