

# OHIO PATIENT NETWORK

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SUBJECT: MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMES TO OHIO**  
**Senator Robert Hagan (D-33) Introduces Bill**

(Columbus, OH) The Ohio Patient Network (OPN) is pleased to learn that Ohio Senator Robert Hagan (D-33) will be introducing the **Ohio Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA)** on **Thursday, February 17, 2005**. This compassionate and groundbreaking legislation will:

- ◆ Modify various sections of the Ohio Revised Code to regulate the medical use of marijuana under the direction of a patient's physician;
- ◆ Establish a patient registry with the Ohio Department of Health and mandate that a patient application and identification process be instituted to identify authorized patients to law enforcement personnel;
- ◆ Require the issuance of identification cards by the Department of Health to patients and caregivers;
- ◆ Establish a method of scientific review and public comment for the purpose of evaluating the conditions for which medical use will be authorized;
- ◆ Protect patients that may benefit from the medical utilization of cannabis and cannabinoid medications from prosecution;
- ◆ Provide physicians and patients with the necessary medical tools to treat otherwise untreatable conditions;
- ◆ Protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting the use of medical marijuana in schools, civic centers, public recreation centers, youth centers, places of employment, on public transportation, or in a private vehicle;
- ◆ Not require public or private insurance companies to incur any cost of the use of medical marijuana; and
- ◆ Properly identify and limit amounts, and standardize the weighing process of marijuana permitted under the law.

"This legislation should provide significant protection from state prosecution to patients who use cannabis therapeutically in Ohio," said John Precup, President of the Ohio Patient Network and a Multiple Sclerosis patient. "Research from all over the world is showing that cannabis can relieve the symptoms of a variety of illnesses including AIDS wasting syndrome, nausea associated with chemotherapy, and MS."

Precup and OPN's Director of Patient Advocacy, Dierdre Zoretic, both patients who use therapeutic cannabis, are available for interview. Please call **1-888-OH-Patient** (1-888-647-2843) for more information.

The Ohio Patient Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of patients, caregivers, medical professionals, concerned citizens, and organizations who support the compassionate use of cannabis for various medicinal purposes. Information about OPN can be found at <http://www.ohiopatient.net>.

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