



# Responsible. Accountable.

Montana's NEW Medical Marijuana Initiative



Montanans want a responsible, accountable law allowing access to medical marijuana to those with debilitating illnesses.

In 2004, 64% of Montana voters passed I-148 creating a medical marijuana program but the Montana Legislature repealed the act in 2011 and replaced it with a new law that fails to meet patients' needs. The new medical marijuana initiative, I-182 addresses concerns over the previous law and provides accountability to all Montanans, including patients, doctors and the general public.



Scientific studies have proven that marijuana not only provides relief for patients suffering from debilitating illnesses but also has curative impacts on many diseases, including cancer.

## Why does Montana need a medical marijuana program?

A considerable amount of hard science exists on marijuana's palliative and curative impacts on a number of debilitating diseases, including cancer, Alzheimer's, chronic pain, epilepsy, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, post-traumatic stress disorder and Parkinson's disease.

Often times, medical marijuana may be the only viable option for treatment or the medication most effective for the patient. Medical marijuana is also less addictive and considerably safer than the opiate painkillers used to treat patients with cancer or chronic pain.

Montanans suffering from debilitating illnesses need safe, legal access to medical marijuana. A law that allows for a responsible and accountable medical marijuana program will be following the will of voters, giving access to those who legitimately need the drug. Should Montanans pass I-182, the state would be joining twenty-three other states and the District of Columbia, who have all legalized medical marijuana.



### FACT

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana.

## How does I-182 get it right for Montanans?



Montanans want a responsible, accountable law allowing access to medical marijuana for those battling cancer or with other debilitating illnesses. I-182 provides safe, responsible access for patients and ensures accountability by:

- Requiring providers obtain licenses and receive unannounced yearly inspections.
- Removing the restrictions limiting providers to only three patients.
- Allowing for product testing in a certified lab to ensure safety, consistency and accurate dosages.
- Providing access to veterans and other patients suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Removing obstacles for patients diagnosed with chronic pain.
- Creating licensing fees to administer the program, ensuring no negative impact to the Montana state budget.

# Montana's Medical Marijuana Timeline

**2004** I-148 is approved by 62% of voters, creating the first medical marijuana program for Montana and providing access to much needed medicine for patients with serious medical conditions.

**2011** Montana legislature passes Senate Bill 423, overturning the will of the voters by repealing I-148 and replacing it with a new unworkable law. The new law creates significant obstacles for patients, providers and growers, essentially eliminating medical marijuana as a viable, legal option for Montanans.

**2011** The MTCIA launches a legal challenge to SB 423, seeking a temporary restraining order. The district court judge enjoined five provisions of the new law, blocking implementation of the worst provisions and allowing the medical marijuana program to continue in Montana.

**2012** The Supreme Court rules that the lower court used the wrong "level of scrutiny" in reaching its conclusion regarding SB 423 and sends it back to district court.

**2015** District court reaches the same conclusion and four of the five provisions remained enjoined. The Attorney General appeals the decision to the Montana Supreme Court. The 2015 Montana state legislature takes no action to fix the unworkable, tied-up-in-the-courts medical marijuana law.

**2016** Montana Supreme Court allows the majority of the provisions of Senate Bill 423 to go into effect, with enforcement of the new restrictions starting August 31. In light of the Supreme Court ruling, medical marijuana advocates launch a citizens' initiative to protect access and properly regulate medical marijuana for safety and accountability.



## Why we need to pass I-182.

**Many current patients will no longer** have access to safe medical marijuana or will risk being criminalized for possession when SB 423 goes into effect on August 31. I-182 will restore patients' access to medical marijuana.

### **SB 423 fails Montanans by:**

- Limiting providers to no more than three patients, leaving more than 12,000 Montana patients without legal access to the medicine they need.
- Creating expensive hoops for chronic pain patients to jump through that serve no professional, medical purpose.
- Creating arbitrary patient limits for physicians over which they must pay to have the Montana Medical Board of Examiner investigate them.
- Failing to allow for testing labs.
- Generally lacking clarity around dispensaries and employees.

## Let's get it right. You can help.

Montanans need to let their voices be heard.

**To volunteer** for I-182 go to [www.yeson182.org](http://www.yeson182.org) or call 1-406-578-4182

**To make your voice heard VOTE YES on I-182** on the ballot this November.

**For more information** visit [www.yeson182.org](http://www.yeson182.org) or contact us at [info@yeson182.org](mailto:info@yeson182.org)



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