



**Connecticut State Medical Society**  
**Statement Submitted to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection**  
**Medical Marijuana Board of Physicians**  
**November 26, 2014**

On behalf of the physician and physician in training members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), we submit these comments to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Medical Marijuana Board of Physicians regarding the potential expansion of medical conditions eligible for inclusion in the state's newly-implemented medical marijuana program.

During the debate regarding legislation to develop a medical marijuana program, CSMS remained consistent in its opposition pending further scientific study of medical marijuana use. At this point, however, we understand that the policy decision has been made by our state's legislature to implement the program. Therefore, we strongly recommend a prudent and deliberative approach to the program's implementation. This should include a systematic effort to collect and analyze data on the effects and health outcomes of medical marijuana in treating the eleven identified medical conditions. Without valid data, it is difficult if not impossible to develop a reliable knowledge base and improve patient care.

It is important to note that the state's medical marijuana program did not become operational until just last month, although original legislation was passed in the 2012 session of the Connecticut General Assembly. Furthermore, DCP has noted that of the 2,800 patients certified to receive medical marijuana, not all have received their official licenses.

Evidence-based medicine requires high-quality data. At this time, none is available for the Connecticut program, given that it has been operational for less than two months and eligible patient participation is incomplete. There simply has not been enough time to collect and validate data on medical marijuana's efficacy in treating the current list of approved conditions. This alone is argument against the expansion of the program. Lacking reliable data on dosage, side effects, drug interactions, and other aspects of medical marijuana as they apply to the current eleven medical conditions, it would be premature to expand the list based on public sentiment [*public opinion*].

If in the future a decision is made to expand the list of medical conditions, basing that decision on solid scientific evidence will be of greatest benefit to Connecticut patients.