

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:57 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Due to fees in RI to get your medical Cannabis ID, I was forced to get a license through CA dr.. My SSDI check is very small and don't allow me to incur in expensive spends. I was paying \$140.00 for consultation, plus \$25.00 for Health Department; and then after 6 months another \$50.00 for another consultation.

When I started using the medical cannabis I had a log stating how I used it and frequency. They don't even look at that! They just ask if I was ok, and that was it. Which I find kind of rude, because as doctors they should spend time with patients and discuss usage of this medication. They just want the money! I don't mind paying Health Department \$25.00 for my license, but it is a waste of my money and time when I go to B&B Consultants. I think it is too expensive!

I found a place where I pay 100.00 for the yr. But license comes from California.

I have been using medical cannabis for 2 yrs. I suffer from fibromyalgia, bursitis, tendonitis, arthritis, tear rotator cuff and sleep apnea. I was using about 24 different medications, since I started using medical cannabis my medications went down to 2 medications only. For me works marvelous, and I feel much better. Please take into consideration this facts.

If any questions, please contact me at, [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations UNFAIR to the PATIENTS

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you today to express my concern for the proposed changes for out-of-state recommendations. I would not like to see these changes due to the harm it may cause myself and other patients. The last few years I have paid 250\$ EACH YEAR to have a doctor sign my papers PLUS the added expense of my medicine which also is all covered out of my pocket. I am a student with sever anxiety, migraines, and depression. It would be a disservice for people like me who are functioning in society better than in the past due to my medication. Also, as an adult student I currently have minimal income and cannot afford to pay the insane price of seeing a doctor for 5 minutes for their signature for that amount of money. Currently I found a much more feasible way to maintain my ID and for you to get rid of it is just unfair to the people who rely on our access to other states. I speak for myself and many others who use this option as a resource to better our mental and physical health, our lives, our families lives, and our freedom to have this option available for us.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:05 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

The proposed regulation is pointless has legal recreational use is spreading all around the country. Any patient turned away for this reason will simply take there business and tax dollars 30min up 95 or in worse case scenarios to illegal drug dealers. Refusing to treat patients with out of state medical recommendations is a step backwards while everyone around us keep progressing.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 4:43 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello Ms. Ferrelli,

I have just heard about the possibility of a new requirement for patients with out-of-state recommendations. This change is harmful to patient access, would cause added expense and delay, and is simply unfair. I work in Massachusetts, my boyfriend lives in MA, but I live in RI. I can not afford to buy both a mass and RI med card. It is convenient for me to have to purchase another med card because I am able to purchase product in MA and medicate myself at my boyfriends/sisters house in mass then go home and also purchase product from dispensaries in RI and Medicate at home. I simply cannot afford to buy both medical cards. If I do not medicate, I will suffer greatly. I understand the great distance of having a Cali med card and a RI ID- for that makes no sense given the distance. However, RI should accept all out of state med cards that are within an acceptable distance.

Thank you for listening.  
Best,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:10 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Proposed Changes to Out of State Medical Cards

Hello,

I am writing to you regarding the changes RI is looking to make for out of state medical cards. I was able to get my card from a Dr in California due to migraines, anxiety and panic disorder. All of these things are not considered "reason" to obtain a Rhode Island medical card, which is why I had to get a card from California. I have struggled with migraines for years now, and using medical marijuana has helped me in many ways. I am able to sleep during a migraine, which is something that I was not able to do with medication. The medical marijuana has also helped with the pain relief and helps my appetite when I have a migraine.

I have also struggled with anxiety and panic for most of my life. I take medication prescribed by my primary care physician and have gone to counseling over the years to help deal with this. Medical marijuana has also been a huge help in calming me down when I am getting really anxious.

I am not someone that abuses this as a recreational drug, I am using this for my health. If Rhode Island is not going to consider migraines, anxiety and panic disorders as conditions to obtain a medical card, please do not make using my California card this difficult. While I understand and respect that the state wants to do things safely, making this extra step of having an out of state ID is going to make it impossible for me and other patients to continue to utilize medical marijuana for medical purposes.

I hope you will consider my story and reconsider this. Or maybe push for Rhode Island to allow those who struggle with migraines and anxiety and panic disorders to obtain medical cards.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Best,

[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 6:34 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern

I am a medical marijuana patient ..I have been diagnosed with PTSD and Fibromyalgia (chronic pain) . amongst other qualifying diagnoses ... I obtained my LIC for medical marijuana online thru the state of California. It was the cheapest n I could afford it.. Rhode Islands LIC fee is too expensive and I cannot afford it . I don't take any meds or pain pills for any relief of all my symptoms. I solely depend on my medical marijuana. If this law gets passed I will be without the only med that helps me cope with my illnesses. This is the safest way to purchase my medical marijuana and I pay taxes to Rhode Island when I make purchases. I have not broken any laws and appreciate not being punished for needing my medicine.. if this law passes please consider lowering the price of the RI LIC fee . It's too expensive.! Thank you

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2019 4:29 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Please don't make this change! I used the out of state medical license because it was far quicker, trusting, and straight forward than attempting to get my in-state medical license. I had major reconstruction on my knee and the pain I get in it is consistently an annoyance. Medical cannabis is my form of medicine, I firmly stand against pharm after seeing what it has done to family, friends, and my community. Please keep things how they are. Because frankly you guys will lose a massive customer base if this happens and it really is taking away some peoples only chance to get medicine.

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Ms. Ferrelli,

Please reconsider the proposed legislation requiring additional forms of ID for patients with out of state medical recommendations. Making it more difficult to obtain the medicine necessary for patients seems cruel and completely unnecessary.

Finding quality primary care providers in RI is difficult enough, particularly in a small state. I am greatly concerned that the proposed legislation will lead to many hardships for the citizens of RI and force them to go to MA where the recreational industry is thriving, which should NOT be the point of servicing the medical needs of our RI citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 28, 2019 10:03 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

I do not want to see the new requirement for patients with out-of-state recommendations. I can't afford the extra expenses the long delays . it's so much easier and faster its more convenient for us patients we spend a lot of money at the dispensaries we shouldn't have to over pay to be able to have our licenses to get our meds. I was addicted to Percocet after my accident. Medical marijuana helps not just me but many other people. My own mother who never used marijuana started the medical program because of all the side effects from her prescription drugs. She stopped using 12 different meds now uses cbd and it helps her. Most of us cant afford the price of the rhode Island. Medical marijuana license why would anyone make it harder for us to be able to get something that helps us. Please do not change the regulations . if you do my card will be cancelled on dec and its original due date is feb i work hard for the little bit of money i make

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Erica,

This is extremely harmful to Many Americans such as myself. Your proposal is one dimensional and doesn't take into account the various reasons why one would not have the second form of ID. I was originally born and raised in California and came back to east coast because of family reasons. Just because the medical card is out of state does not mean that is not legal or on a lower level. People move and do things for both family and job. Please have a heart and consider those who are less fortunate. Just because I moved and did the legal way which was change my license and my home address. Don't punish myself and the rest of us law abiding citizens with this short sighted fisher price view points that you have to have the same state ID as your medical card. It's soon to be the year 2020 don't be so ignorant to other people's unique situations.

Best regards,  
Proud USA Citizen

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 4:40 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hi my name is Rachel and I'm concerned with this Change. I have a out of state card from California and without it I wouldn't be able to sleep or have a appetite even. I have another identification card but it's exactly the same as my other one would it be acceptable if this change is made ?

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 3:13 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

I do not feel having patients/clients require 2 forms of ID from same state where recommendation comes from is a good idea. Many of the local doctors either are not believers of this treatment and/or charge entirely too much. Many patients would be affected.

Concerned....

- [\[ripatients.wixsite.com\]](http://ripatients.wixsite.com)

### **ATTENTION RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS**

RI wants to change the rules for patients who use of out-of-state medical cannabis recommendations. A new regulation would require anyone with an out-of-state recommendation or card to also show a second form of ID from the state where the recommendation came when purchasing medicine.

So if you you have a recommendation from a doctor in CA, you would need to show a second form of ID from CA when purchasing your medicine.

The state wants to make this change soon. If they do not hear from patients NOW, the current rules could change. There is a public comment period on this proposed change that runs until **December 21, 2019**.

Click **[HERE](#)** to send an email to the state and let them know that you do not want to see the new requirement for patients with out-of-state recommendations. Your email should include a short message saying that this change is harmful to patient access, would cause you added expense and delay, and is simply unfair.

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello,

I would like to voice my concern regarding out of state medical marijuana licenses and recommendations. I've heard that RI is looking to change their rules in which anyone with an out of state license or recommendation will be required to have an ID from that state. This is unreasonable and unfair. First, states have different medical requirements for what illnesses justify a medical marijuana license. With RI having too exclusive of requirements, it forces patients to see doctors out of state to receive the care and medicine that they need.

Also, let's be realistic. Money is the driving factor with everything so Rhode Island will lose money if it suddenly bars a group of people from obtaining medical marijuana only because they saw an out of state doctor.

Please reconsider this law. Or, amend the current law to allow for other medical conditions to allow for treatment with medical marijuana. For example, opioid withdrawal and/or medical assisted recovery, anxiety and sleep disorders, depression, etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 12:51 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello there,

As a person who has a residence in both California and Rhode Island, I am not happy to hear about the proposed change to the rules regarding out of state medical marijuana licenses. The prices to get a card in Rhode Island are already preposterous and since I have residency in CA where they are FAR less expensive, I opt for that procedure. Especially since my long time personal physician is located there as well. Now because my drivers license is from RI but my physician is in CA, I have to acquire further documentation? This sounds like a ploy for the state to get more fees out of me. This change is not warranted and completely unnecessary. I please ask that this issue gets released to the public and not brushed under the rug, as I am sure it will effect citizens choices at the ballot box.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello,

I would be harmful to patient access to require more requirements for out of state patients. This would add extra expense and delay. It's not fair or necessary.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello the new rules about having to provide a second form of ID for out of state patients would cause unnecessary expenses and delay for getting medicine for my condition. It is simply unfair and an inconvenience . Please reconsider this change.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern this change in regulations is harmful to patient access that have out of state medical cards and , would cause us added expense and delay in receiving our medication, it is simply unfair.

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:23 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations  
**Attachments:** FB\_IMG\_1575393695204.jpg



## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:02 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

There is a good reason why people circumvented the RI doctor recommendation process. When I had legitimate chronic pain issues, my rheumatologist treated me like I was an addict trying to score pills. I expressed genuine interest in becoming a medical marijuana patient and was not even given the courtesy of a dialogue. I expressed disinterest in painkillers during the whole process, and explained how I self-medicated with weed and preferred to do so. Yet I was disregarded. I'm lucky I live without that chronic pain now, because my Rhode Island doctor didn't care. The irony is that the California doctor who approved my card, cared more than the doctor who was appointed to me. Do Rhode Island a favor and legalize it already.

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:53 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This change would be harmful to me because I get my medicine from my local dispensary and it would cause delays and too much expense, please don't change this rule I don't want to lose out on my Medicine

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 7:08 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

The newly proposed regulations on the medical cards for out of state patients is harmful not only to the marijuana businesses in Rhode Island but economy as a whole. Rhode Island not only has the worst Economic growth but also ranks in last in various amounts of categories including agriculture. Many patients with out of state medical cards went through a doctor who looks through your medical records and concludes if it's justified to obtain a Medical card. Many people in Rhode Island went through this doctor and because of this is making business for compassion centers in Rhode Island increased drastically. Going through with this proposition will result in a decrease in sales for companies and ultimately decrease GDP in Rhode Island. I really believe you guys should reconsider this proposition due to all the negative affects it brings.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hi I have an out of state patient card and I live in Rhode Island and I go to the dispensary for a long time now and this will really effect me and my back problems and anxiety

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:20 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This is ridiculous. No reason for this law. Your just making life more difficult for people who actually need to receive their medicine. Stop trying to fix problems that don't excised in the first place.

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 9:07 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to express my anger and frustration with the proposal to take action against patients who have received their medical marijuana licenses from out of state. This proposal would cause unnecessary pain and suffering for those that have currently have LEGAL access to SAFE alternatives to prescription medication for pain and mental health management.

Personally, I access products in order to manage chronic pain. Denying me this access would cause me to seek out alternative suppliers which would impact me financially. Most importantly, denying me access to SAFE products will force patients, like me, to seek out their supplies from unsafe suppliers. As we constantly see in the media, these products are not monitored and may contain unsafe and often deadly ingredients.

I urge you to vote NO to this proposal in order to ensure the safety of patients that hold out of state medical licenses.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:09 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my displeasure with the changing requirement for patients with out-of-state medical marijuana recommendations. This change is harmful to patient access, would cause me added expense and delay of care, and is simply unfair.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 2:16 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello, please don't change the medical requirements for out of state patients. Things have been better since I have been able to visit the pharmacy.

Thanks for your understanding,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Proposed Amendment 230-RICR-80-05-1

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to express my concerns that the new amendment you proposed will be detrimental to patient's well being and Rhode Island's economy.



[MMP Amendment Letter RB \[docs.google.com\]](#)

Please read my letter and respond.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

December 9, 2019

Erica Ferrelli  
Department of Business Regulations  
15-11 Pontiac Ave, Bldg 681  
Cranston, Rhode Island, 02920

Dear Erica Ferrelli,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing because the proposed amendment, 230-RICR-80-05-1, the new requirement for patients with out-of-state recommendations, would be detrimental to not only the patients' well being, but to the Rhode Island cannabis economy as well.

Since I was 15 years old I have experienced consistent muscle spasms that were undiagnosable and untreatable to multiple doctors. These spasms occur all over my body, from my eyes, to my legs, to my fingers. They spark an intense feeling of anxiety in the pit of my stomach, causing abdominal pain and irritable bowel syndrome symptoms. During my annual check-up when I turned 19 (2017), I told my primary care physician that the spasms still occur and affect my daily life. As she realized that the spasms were unresponsive to all previous treatments, she referred me to a doctor that specializes in patients that meet the requirements for the Rhode Island Medical Marijuana Program.

As I approached the receptionist in the office, the first thing asked of me was to pay \$200 just to be let into the waiting room, in which I waited for about two and a half hours. I spent around 30 minutes with the doctor, who set me up with the paperwork I needed to send to the Department of Health. I went home with instructions to send \$50 more to the Department of Health and wait 3 weeks for the paperwork to get cleared. After they finished processing my paperwork, I could finally go to the Department of Health and get my Medical Marijuana patient card.

Nearly three hundred dollars and one month later, I was finally able to get the medicine my doctor had recommended to me. The anxiety that weighed in my stomach eased as I used cannabis and allowed me to function in performing daily tasks like doing homework.

When my license expired, I did not get a letter from the Department of Health, like I was told I would, reminding me to renew. This could have been dangerous if I was a patient that required cannabis for seizure remedies. Luckily I don't experience seizures, but during the time I did not have marijuana I felt the spasms come back like never before. I became worried because, like most current medical marijuana patients, I could not afford the high renewal fee.

December 9, 2019

A few months later, after I had spoken to many clueless doctors about what I should do about my muscle spasms, Rhode Island marijuana legislation determined that taking out-of-state physician recommendations would be best for all patients in Rhode Island. I and over 6,500 Rhode Island residents were ecstatic because we knew that getting a medical marijuana card in a state like California was hundreds of dollars cheaper. For \$250 less, I got the same recommendation as my local doctor, was able to go to the dispensary the same day I spoke to the physician, and received vital information about the cannabis industry that the Rhode Island process failed to teach me. If I weren't able to get that card, then I would be forced to find my medicine on the black market, or give my money to the Massachusetts marijuana economy.

Ms. Ferrelli, as policy and economic analyst of the Department of Business, you should be aware of the record-breaking revenue that Medical Marijuana laws have brought to Rhode Island. Because I could not find a trace of you on the internet, I am not sure what other legislation and amendments you have worked on. But seeing as you are an economic analyst, you can conclude that as the number of patients buying product decreases, so will the revenue of the compassion centers, thereby decreasing the amount of taxes paid to the state by these centers. This legislation, introduced in November 2018, allowed for demand to increase at exponential rates. The medical marijuana industry in Rhode Island is set to generate more than \$40 million in 2019. Due to various taxes, the state will receive about \$5.7 million from these sales. The amount of taxes to be paid in 2019 is double the amount paid in 2018, because of the number of patients with access to the compassion centers nearly doubled as well. Since the dramatic increase in revenue, Governor Raimondo suggested at least six more dispensaries should be opened in Rhode Island. Each of these new compassion centers would have to pay at least \$500,000 in license fees, in addition to the millions of dollars it would take to construct the centers. However, the state won't benefit from these fees if the centers can't open due to patients no longer having access.

This proposed amendment will not ensure “a clear, transparent and fair application and licensing process; product safety, increased safe and dependable access to medical marijuana,” as the Purpose and Reason section of the amendment suggests. It only prohibits low income patients from getting medication recommended by a licensed and practicing physician safely and legally, and decreases the chance of record-breaking revenue for the state to happen again in this industry.

If the amendment you are suggesting goes through, just under 40% of Rhode Island's 20,000 patients will no longer support the Rhode Island compassion centers. These locally-owned and run businesses will lose millions of dollars, because their customers will have to go through processes that are just too expensive. And in turn, the state will lose millions of dollars as citizens will struggle to medicate chronic conditions.

December 9, 2019

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 10:21 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Thank You for hearing me.

I suffer from PTSD and depression. I used medications that was prescribed/recommended by my doctor. These medications often made me feel disconnected from family and friends, and oddly to say from myself. Cannabis has given me my life back. It is the exceptional quality of the cannabis medication that helps me and brings me back to Slater. I've tried dispensaries in my state, but did not help me the standards of quality are not the same from state to state. Rhode Island understands, please allow the state's compassion to spread.

Sincerely,  
Medical Cannabis Patient.

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may regard,

I have been a medicinal marijuana patient since Spring. It has been a great help in coping with my mental illness, including my PTSD which has gone undiagnosed due to financial reasons. I cannot afford a Rhode Island medical permit, but I have been able to access safe and affordable marijuana due to our state allowing out-of-state patients. I implore you not to change this policy. I would be happy to talk more in depth about this issue any time.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:51 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Good morning, I am a medical marijuana patient from California. I have heard that I am now going to be required to bring two forms of ID when purchasing my medicine. While I reside in RI now I have had my CA medical license for several years. I no longer have a valid CA ID and it would be very challenging And time consuming to acquire a new one. Or it would be a financial but done to go through the medical process with RI doctors to get another recommendation. my health insurance is spotty at best and I am looking at several hundred dollars worth of billsFor this. I don't feel that this regulation change betters the community or improves the quality of life for people who are sick. It will only cause them unnecessary harm and potentially force them to go to the black market to purchase their products. I do not want to be a criminal I want to pay my taxes and receive a product that has been tested by the state. Thank you and have a nice day.

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 4:21 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello I'm concerned that this change is harmful to patient access, would cause me added expense and delay, and is simply unfair. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 8:44 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Re: Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

In addition to my first e-mail, if out of state cards are baned then Massachusetts will get the tax money because everyone will just go to Massachusetts. I know thats what i will be doing as well as others i have spoke with. Another addition is that people with just go back to buying off the streets wich will in the long run could lead to death because of other harmful chemicals and drugs added to it. The reality of having anxiety, sleep deprivation, anger issues, and pain is very real and people who can not afford the price of a RI license and get it from a state that makes it Affordable, you can't understand because its not you. Alcohol is legal and its a horrible thing for people to use daily, it destroys family's, themselves, and others but thats ok? Makes NO sense to me at all. So taking away out of state licences will cause much more harm then good, and the state of RI will lose ALOT of money.

On Wed, Nov 27, 2019, 12:17 AM brenda plunkett <[brendap62474@gmail.com](mailto:brendap62474@gmail.com)> wrote:

I was recently contacted about my out of state license. I live in RI and have a California marijuana license. RI wants to change the laws for out of state licences. I was encouraged to write a letter to explain how this will affect me. I have server anxiety, anger issues, back and sciatic pain and a sleep disorder, medical grade marijuana helps me with all of this. I am a nursing assistant so we all know that the pay is barley livable. I purchased my licence on-line from California because it was more then half the price less then if i were to go to a Dr in RI. If this changes happens it will greatly effect me and i am sure i am not the only one in this position.

Thank you for your time, and i hope this along with others will stop this from happening.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** Domenic Passarella <domenicpassarella@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 7, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Birenbaum, Norman (DBR); Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Suggestion for happy medium on Cali Cards

Dear DBR,

From a regulatory perspective, I fully understand why DBR would want to eliminate the Cali card. It appears to have been an unintended consequence and it creates the image that there are gaps in what needs to be a tightly regulated environment. Additionally, if the state does approve adult use, these cards would be a negative impact on state revenue.

Unfortunately for cultivators, this loss in market will do the most harm to cultivators who do not have a compassion center. It puts us pretty much in the same place we were with the concern of 6 new centers with unlimited grows, where the now reduced patient count can be supplied with the grows of 9 centers.

Obviously, every cultivators hope is that the Cali card will be left alone. If this is not likely to happen, please consider allowing all out of state patient cardholders the right to purchase a fraction of what R.I. card holders would purchase or limit what products they may purchase.

Patients will still be able to access safe medicine easily, DBR will still be able to regulate out of state cardholders effectively, cultivators will still survive, compassion centers will thrive, and it should encourage heavy RI users to upgrade to a R.I. card.

If my assumptions on why DBR would like to eliminate the Cali card are incorrect or if I am missing the perspective of a stakeholder, please feel free to correct me. I would love to help craft a change to this that all parties can live with.

As always, thank you for your time,

Domenic Passarella  
IDBP, LLC

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 12, 2019 10:09 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Please do not require a second out of state ID in order to go to the compassion center. My out of state medical card allows me to obtain my card at a price I can afford therefore allowing my to purchase medical marijuana to help the extreme pain I am in on a daily basis without having to take pain pills essentially saving the state money each month in prescription cost.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](mailto:go.onelink.me)

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 3:11 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello, I am writing this email to express my displeasure with this new rule change. This rule change can be very damaging to myself and other Rhode Island medical cannabis patients. The out of state medical cards are far less expensive and much more beneficial to patients like me as I can not afford a Rhode Island medicinal cannabis card. This rule change is an extreme inconvenience and I hope to see this rule change declined as the Rhode Island dispensary's will see far less business if this rule is passed. Please keep the rules the way they are! Thank you for reading.

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2019 3:36 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This proposed action will bring me great anguish. The increase in cost will put me right over the edge. I already can barely afford things as it is. This change would only be extremely unfair and inconvenient, nothing else. Please consider this message, and all others, when making your decisions. Inhibiting patients access will not only hurt the bottom line of this State, but also eliminate a safe way to get the tested medicine that I need.

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 6:47 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern

I am a patient who will be affected with the change that is being made. I'm not here to beg, this is a need I am a medical patient and yes I do use medical marijuana to get me through the day to control my anxiety my stress dealing with the death of my son thanks to the state of Rhode Island state police who took my sons life in a car accident on valley st in 2011... I suffer I never knew what anxiety was I never knew what panic attacks were until this has happened I cannot afford to be excluded from visiting dispensaries I need Rhode Island to make the change and I need Rhode Island to make the change now so why make me suffer anymore than I already have I don't have money to afford stop being obnoxious with this process and make it happen. The state has taken a life from me...don't take my coping medicine  
Sincerely [REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:51 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern:

Due to my severe anxiety, PTSD, depression, and chronic migraines that last for days sometimes weeks, i now have to use medical marijuana. I have been on numerous medications since i was 10 years old and nothing has helped me. I gained weight from certain meds that caused me to develop type 2 diabetes. Medical marijuana is the best thing for me. I have talked to people here in RI and was told my best bet that would be the most affordable for me was to go through doctors in California via webcams and emails. I was able to get my card in november of this year 2019. And it was only \$60.00. Here in RI it can go up to \$200.00. I cant afford that. Why would you want to deny someone access to something that helps them after theyve gone through everything that i have since i was 10, i am now 28, with meds that made me sick, made me gain weight to the point i now have a serious ailment! Dont make something harder for us to get because we find what we can afford!!

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I'm a patient at slater center . Not only does the slater center provide me with medical flowers they show there patients live and respect it would hurt to loose my medical license. My medical card it from California but I live in Rhode Island its so convenient and safer to go to the slater center and purchase meds than to look around in the streets for it . Please do not make changes

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 7:13 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to bring alertness to the proposed change on medical marijuana cards in RI. This change would be harmful to patient access it would cause us added expense that we simply cannot afford as the price of medicine is already a challenge not to mention the delays, and is simply unfair. This is an unnecessary change that would affect many Rhode Islander's in a negative way.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 10:58 AM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello how are you? My name is [REDACTED] and I have Medical card from California for my anxiety and Chronic back pain. I went through California because it was cheaper and because I can't afford the RI one. I am asking please do not take this away from me or anyone else who can't afford the RI card. If this is taken away I am afraid of what might happen. Right now the pain and my anxiety is under control and if you take my card away I'm afraid I will go back to the way I was and I do not want this. Please please don't take this away.

Thank You  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Hello,

Please reconsider requiring additional identification for out of state patients. This change is harmful to patient access. It will cause myself and others affected added expense and delay. It is unfair and doesn't make sense.

Thank you for your time and and consideration

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

I do not want to see the new requirement for patients with out-of-state recommendations to take effect. This change is harmful to patient access, would cause patients added expenses and delays, and is simply unfair.

Please do not require this for out-of-state patients.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 9:16 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

These regulations are extremely scary for people who rely on cannabis to counter act illness. For someone like me, who has an out of state card, I will no longer be able to get my medicine to help with my sleeping disorder. Rather, I have to pay an expensive premium to get a Rhode Island card which I can barely afford. Please Reconsider the proposal and prevent effecting hundreds of patients who rely on their medicine to get them through the day. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2019 12:35 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This proposed measure to require patients to present a secondary form of out of state medical marijuana cards is harmful to the user. This is only preventing patients from getting there medicine. I understand struggling with the accreditation of a dispensary but I think this effort is misplaced. I think efforts should be going into THOROUGHLY TESTING ALL PRODUCTS FROM TCS Dispensary. The laws Raimondo put in place leaves patients in the dark in regards to what they are buying. Please I urge you to rethink this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 2:19 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This change is harmful to patient access, would cause you added expense and delay, Patients rely on this medicine and in my opinion this is unfair.

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 6:03 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Please do not change the rules. This will effect patients that really need it very difficult for them to have another form of ID. Please leave as is and I do not agree with the change.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 1:29 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

Ms. Ferrelli,

This email is to show that I am against added regulations for medical cannabis. This change is harmful to patient access, would cause added expense and delay, and is simply unfair. People are going through the necessary steps to gain access to medical cannabis and should not be penalized.

Please take the request into consideration.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 12:53 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

This is a problem, because i changed my id, when i moved here. So now i have to have 2 ids.  
Doesnt make sense.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

**Beaven, Elizabeth (DBR)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 3:25 PM  
**To:** Ferrelli, Erica (DBR)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment - Proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations

I THINK YOU GUYS SHOULD GO THROUGH WITH THE BILL. FOR ONCE US PATIENTS SHOULD START DOING THINGS THE RIGHT AND PROPER WAY. WHY CANT PEOPLE JUST GET IT FOR RHODE ISLAND. ITS NOT LIKE ITS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IT. I FEEL PEOPLE ARE JUST DOING IT FOR THE LOWER COST. WHICH I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND. BUT WHAT THEY DONT REALIZE THEY ARE DOING. IS GIVING MONEY TO ANOTHER STATE. THEY SHOULD GIVE IT TO THEIR OWN. THIS BILL WONT HURT ANYONE AT ALL. BUT MAYBE LOWER THE COST FROM 200. OR MAKE IT LAST 2 YEARS IF IT COSTS 200. IM A DISABLED VETERAN WHO USES MEDICAL MARIJUANA TO TREAT AN INJURY AND SEVERE PTSD. IM A FULL BELIEVER IN DOING THINGS THE RIGHT WAY. THIS COMMUNITY NEEDS TO KEEP A GOOD FACE BECAUSE OF THE OTHER SIDE WHO OPPOSES IT AND IS LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE TO OUTLAW IT. WHY DO PEOPLE FROM RHODE ISLAND NEED A CALIFORNIA LICENSE. THIS LAW WONT HURT ANYONE BECAUSE IF YOU ARE TRULY FROM THAT STATE YOU WILL HAVE A STATE ID FROM THAT STATE. LIKE I SAID MAYBE LOWER THE PRICE OR LENGTHEN THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE LICENSE LASTS. BUT MOST DEFINATLY THINK YOU SHOULD PASS THIS BILL