



# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

## OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

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Daniel J. McKee Governor  
Kasim J. Yarn Director

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H5630 – AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- COMPASSIONATE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT**

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter as a record to reflect the Office of Veterans Services' concern regarding H5630, an act relating to food and drugs – the Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act.

The passage of this act would require certain healthcare facilities in the state to allow terminally ill patients the ability to use medicinal cannabis within the healthcare facility, including our Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol.

RIVETS has several concerns with the present legislation. Federal law classifies marijuana as an illegal Schedule One Controlled Substance. The RIVH receives federal funding and, therefore, potentially carries a substantial risk if the facility allows marijuana use by patients. Hospitals and nursing facilities found violating federal law could lose federal funding and face penalties. Additionally, RIVETS is concerned with how the Veterans Home would provide oversight to the distribution and proper storage of cannabis. In its present form, H5630 raises numerous liabilities for the facility, administration, and caretakers of our Veterans.

I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the Committee to consider amending H5630.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Yarn", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Kasim J. Yarn  
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy