



April 4, 2008

Honorable Mark Leno
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916-319-2113

**RE: AB 2279 (Leno) Medical Cannabis Employment Non-Discrimination –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Leno:

The Service Employees International Union supports your Assembly Bill AB 2279. This bill will make it unlawful to discriminate in employment practices based on an employee's legal use of medical marijuana outside the work place and not during working hours. This bill would reverse the California Supreme Court ruling in *Ross v. RagingWire Telecommunications*, in which the Court ruled that an employee using medical marijuana with a doctor's recommendation as permitted by California law may be fired solely because of his/her status as a medical cannabis patient.

This bill continues the State of California's commitment to the protection of medical cannabis patients' rights. In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, The Compassionate Use Act "to ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes." In 2003, SB 420 (Vasconcellos) was signed into law to address issues that had arisen following the passage of Prop. 215, including the establishment of a qualified patient's right to use medical marijuana outside the workplace. **SEIU supported both the Compassionate Use Act and SB 420.**

In its ruling, the California Supreme Court ignored the will of the voters and the legislature by invalidating the rights of more than 200,000 California patients to be free from discrimination in employment. AB 2279 restores this right, while preserving the rights of employers to take action against employees that come to work impaired or consume medical marijuana at the workplace.

SEIU urges your colleagues in the legislature to Vote AYE on AB 2279.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Davenport". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen Davenport
Director of Government Relations

cc: Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee
Members of the Assembly Labor Committee
Art Pulaski, Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation

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