



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

January 8, 2018

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Banking Services for Medical Cannabis Programs

President Donald J. Trump,

I am following up on my two previous letters, dated March 1, 2017, and September 11, 2017, to request your assistance clarifying the federal government's intentions regarding the deposit and remittance of funds related to medical cannabis.

Now that Attorney General Jeff Sessions has rescinded previous guidance on cannabis enforcement and signaled that U.S. attorneys will enforce federal prohibitions on the cultivation, distribution, and possession of cannabis, it is imperative that your office communicate your administration's approach to the nation's medical cannabis banking problem.

The State of Illinois is one of 29 states that permit the use of medical cannabis for the treatment of pre-approved medical conditions. While the State of Illinois has implemented strict regulations for the issuance and monitoring of licenses to cultivators and dispensaries along with individual medical cards, medical cannabis firms continue to face significant banking challenges relating to the deposit and remittance of these monies. This includes monies received for licensing, fees, and tax payments.

As State Treasurer, I am responsible for receiving the revenues and all other public monies of state entities. Accordingly, my office contracts with financial institutions to provide services, such as the acceptance of cash, checks, and electronic deposits on behalf of state agencies. The most significant challenge we face is the disparate interpretation of the legality of these monies deposited by government agencies and businesses with state and nationally chartered financial institutions.

Right now we need to end the confusion, obtain clear direction, and see real leadership on this issue. Specifically, I request that your administration provide substantive clarification and guidance on the receipt and remittance of such funds, whether cash, checks, or electronic payments, deposited by state governments and medical cannabis firms in financial institutions. Not only will this guidance foster job growth and economic development in a fledgling industry, it also will ensure continued medical treatment for millions of Americans, including military veterans, senior citizens, and disabled persons, in pain and suffering.

I would like to ask for a meeting and/or telephone call to discuss this important topic. I would appreciate an opportunity to share the benefit of our experiences and work in partnership with your

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administration to resolve this issue. To facilitate a discussion in scheduling a time for a call or meeting, please contact Jay Rowell, Illinois State Deputy Treasurer, to arrange. Jay can be reached via email at jrowell@illinoistreasurer.gov or by telephone at 312-814-3575.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Michael Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

cc: Illinois Department of Revenue