



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER  
**MICHAEL W. FRERICHS**

March 1, 2017

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

**RE: Banking Services for Medical Cannabis Programs (Second Attempt)**

President Donald J. Trump,

I am following up on my letter dated January 23, 2017, requesting your assistance clarifying how the federal government intends to treat the deposit and remittance of funds related to medical cannabis.

The State of Illinois is one of 23 states that permit the use of medical cannabis for the treatment of pre-approved medical conditions. While the medical cannabis industry continues to expand, state governments and medical cannabis firms 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 the state. Accordingly, we contract with financial institutions to provide services such as the acceptance of cash, checks, and electronic deposits on behalf of the state's multiple 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.

Furthermore, there is a growing lack of clarity surrounding this issue; with White House press secretary Sean Spicer stating on February 23<sup>rd</sup> that states should expect to see "greater enforcement" of federal regulations.

At this time, I request 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 a financial institution. Not only will this guidance foster economic development in a fledgling industry, it also will ensure continued medical treatment for constituents in pain and suffering.

Please let me know if there is additional information my office can provide to advance this effort. Contact me at (312) 814-3575 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Frerichs".

Michael Frerichs  
Illinois State Treasurer

cc: Illinois Department of Revenue

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