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Councilmember David Grosso

  
Councilmember Yvette M. Alexander

  
Councilmember Anita Bonds

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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11 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend section 12 of the  
12 Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 to require the  
13 Department of Health to convene an open application period for a medical marijuana  
14 dispensary.

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16 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
17 resolution may be cited as the "Medical Marijuana Dispensary Emergency Declaration  
18 Resolution of 2016".

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20 Sec. 2. (a) The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999  
21 effective July 27, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-210; D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.06) established a  
22 medical marijuana program in the District. Pursuant to this act, the Department of Health can  
23 register a maximum of 8 dispensaries to ensure that qualifying patients have adequate access to  
24 medical marijuana.

25 (b) Although approximately 25% of all medical marijuana qualifying patients reside in  
26 Wards 7 and 8, there are no medical marijuana dispensaries east of the Anacostia River.

27 (c) A medical marijuana program that requires qualifying patients to travel across the city  
28 does not encourage the utilization of that program. Additionally, research has shown that travel  
29 often serves as a barrier to the use of healthcare services.

30 (d) Requiring the Department of Health to convene an open application period will help  
31 the District ensure that all of its residents are able to utilize the medical marijuana program as  
32 intended.

33 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
34 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
35 Medical Marijuana Dispensary Emergency Amendment Act of 2016 be adopted after a single  
36 reading.

37 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.