



# GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

## SB 15, relative to the law regarding therapeutic use of cannabis.

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 17-2

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill allows doctors to recommend cannabis for severe pain that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures or for which other treatment options produced serious side effects.

- Numerous studies, including clinical trials, have shown medical cannabis to be a safe and effective treatment for pain.
- Doctors are already permitted to prescribe serious, habit forming drugs for pain management. By comparison, cannabis is extremely mild. It is not reasonable to allow the prescription of hard opioids to patients suffering from pain, but not to allow the recommendation of cannabis by doctors.
- Abuse of prescription opioids is a major contributing factor to the opioid epidemic in NH. Replacement of prescription opioids with cannabis will help prevent addiction and abuse in some patients, as well as potentially reducing the quantity of prescription opioids on the street.

# SB 15

# YEA OTP

## SB 17, relative to treatment for hepatitis C under the law relative to use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 13-7

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill removes the requirement that a patient with hepatitis-C be "currently undergoing antiviral treatment" in order to qualify for the therapeutic cannabis program.

- According to a study published by the National Institutes for Health, there is substantial evidence that cannabis use may help address key challenges faced by drug users in hepatitis-C treatment (e.g., nausea, depression). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16957507>
- The legislature should not be inserting itself in the patient/doctor relationship and pretending to understand the medical challenges faced by patients.

# SB 17

# YEA OTP