

Adding dried leaf cannabis to the Iowa Cannabis Program



[Angie Kerr](#) started this petition to [Iowa State House](#) and 3 others

Adding dry leaf and plant form, for administration by vaporization, to the forms permitted under the act will provide patients with greater access to medical cannabis because this form is the least costly. Med Pharm Iowa Harmony tincture has 300 mg of THC at \$110, making the cost \$366 for 1 gram of THC. 1 gram of dried leaf cannabis is \$10. The price difference of \$356. Majority of patients are living solely on disability payments.

The CDC reports 1,479 hospitalizations and 34 deaths as of October 22, 2019. From vaporization of oils infused with THC or nicotine.

Oct 23, 2019 Governor Reynolds gave a press conference. She stated six states have, in some way, banned the sale of vaping products. She highlighted 34 cases in Iowa were linked to THC vapes. Governor Reynold said she is not afraid to take executive action on banning vaping products. Many medical cannabis patient's doctors have ordered patients to not use the THC vape pens. And recommended the use dry vape device as an alternative. And at this point, the only available device to Iowa patients is oil vaporization. Vaporization of the flower has no reported injuries. And if oil vaporization is banned by Governor Reynold's cannabis patients will need an expedient and safe alternative.

The cannabis products offered in the Iowa cannabis program only have 2 to 4 cannabinoids, no flavonoids and no terpenes. The vape products are infused with coconut oil. And the pills are full of fillers. Not just cannabis. Many say these are suboptimal forms of cannabis medication.

Physician Sue Sisley, founder of the Scottsdale Research Institute, said that processed products, such as concentrates, are “suboptimal forms” of cannabis. She says that they are not as effective as the natural whole plant. “It’s like the difference between an orange and orange juice,” Sisley said. “Flower gives you the natural entourage effect. There are 400 bioactive molecules in the plant, 130+ cannabinoids and dozens of terpenes and flavonoids. The theory is that the molecules all work together.

The time is now to make these important changes to the Iowa cannabis program. As of January 1st, any person over the age of 21 is going to be able to go to Illinois to purchase more economical, and more effective cannabis products. I respectfully urge the board give patients access to the most medicinal and affordable cannabis medication. Last year, the board made the decision to remove the provision that that patients with felonies should not be barred from the cannabis program. Now, we need to align Iowa with the other 32 states with dried leaf cannabis as part of their medical cannabis programs and stop jailing patients for using the medication their doctors have recommended.