



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 302 which will expand on Ryan's Law (Chapter 384, Statutes of 2021), a bill I was proud to sign two years ago that allows patients with terminal conditions to use medicinal cannabis. This bill additionally allows seniors over 65 with a chronic disease to use medicinal cannabis in a skilled nursing facility, congregate living health facility, special hospital, hospice facility, or while receiving care from a home health agency.

I anticipate clean-up legislation to this bill next year to clarify a drafting error. Specifically, the bill excludes hospitals from its provisions, but could be interpreted to narrow existing law for hospital patients that have both a terminal illness and chronic disease. It is my understanding this was not the intent. Many individuals with chronic diseases seek medicinal cannabis as an alternative to opioids for treatment of chronic pain, and their living situation should not be a barrier to access. I believe signing this legislation has greater benefits than concerns, recognizing that the policy will be clarified.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

