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Senator Campbell Expands Patient Access to Medical Cannabis Oil

AUSTIN – The Texas Senate passes House Bill 3703 on Wednesday, expanding access to low-THC medical cannabis oil for patients with certain conditions. State Senator Donna Campbell, an emergency room physician from New Braunfels, sponsored House Bill 3703, which was authored by Rep. Stephanie Klick in the House

Senator Campbell broadened HB 3703 to include patients with seizure disorders, incurable neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Huntington's, and ALS, multiple sclerosis, autism, and terminal cancer.

"This is about compassion and allowing medically licensed, board certified physicians to treat patients by prescribing low-THC medical cannabis oil for those it has been shown to benefit," said Senator Campbell. "These patients are our family, friends, and members of our communities. These folks have no interest in recreational drugs. They just want access to medical treatment to ease their suffering and help them live normal lives."

Under current law, patients with intractable epilepsy must obtain the prescription of two neurology specialists. HB 3703 reduces the requirement to one board-certified physician who specializes in treating the applicable condition. The entire process is monitored by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), including licensure and inspection of the state's dispensaries.

"For many patients, participation in the compassionate use program - even in its limited capacity - has been remarkable and life-altering. Hopefully, this expansion will provide similar results for many more Texans," Senator Campbell stated.

The Texas Compassionate Use Registry was established by Senate Bill 339 four years ago. Senator Campbell strongly supported that bill, authored by Sen. Kevin Eltife.

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