



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Will Include Lynn Pierson Compassionate Use Act in Legislative Agenda

Santa Fe, NM -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that he will include the Lynn Pierson Compassionate Use Act on his legislative "call" for the current session.

"After speaking with many seriously ill New Mexicans, I have decided to include this bill on my call," said Governor Richardson. "This issue is too important and there are too many New Mexicans suffering to delay this issue any further."

This legislation would allow qualified patients suffering from certain serious illnesses - such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, and epilepsy - to use marijuana for relief of their symptoms. The law would require a patient to receive a recommendation from their doctor and then apply to participate in the program through the Department of Health. The Department of Health would develop regulations for licensed producers within the state, identifying standards for safety, security, and distribution.

The Department of Health would keep a registry of participants. Patients under 18 years old could only participate with parental consent.

Last year's medical marijuana bill, sponsored by Senator Cisco McSorley, passed the Senate 27-11 but failed in the House.

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