



September 16, 2015

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The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 643 (McGuire) – Medical Marijuana
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties® (CSAC), I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 643, by Senator Mike McGuire. SB 643 is one of three bills passed by the Legislature that address the regulation of medical marijuana.

For California's counties, the issue of medical marijuana regulation is of great importance. Since the passage of Proposition 215, The Compassionate Use Act of 1996, and the Medical Marijuana Program Act of 2003, counties continue to face various uncertainties with the implementation of these measures and regulation of the legal and illegal usage of medical marijuana.

SB 643 would address a wide range of issues pertinent to the comprehensive regulatory framework for medical marijuana including, the establishment standards for physicians and surgeons that prescribe medical marijuana; the assignment of authority and responsibilities to specified state agencies charged with the licensing of medical marijuana activities; track and trace requirements enabling accurate tracking of marijuana products; requirements for pesticide standards for cultivation activities, and licensure suitability provisions. Of particular significance to counties are the provisions in SB 643 that would:

- Prohibit a licensee from commencing activity under the authority of a state license until the applicant has obtained a local license or permit.
- Require that cultivation be conducted in accordance with state and local laws, as specified.
- Authorize licensing authorities and state and local agencies to inspect shipments of medical marijuana and request documentation for current inventory.
- Provide counties with explicit authority to impose taxes on medical marijuana activities and products.

The passage of the three-bill medical marijuana legislative package is a historic achievement, and we truly appreciate the work of the Administration, the authors and their staff on this collaborative effort. We believe that together this package provides for a

critical statewide regulatory framework that also respects the interests of local government.

It is for these reasons that we support SB 643 and respectfully request your signature of this important measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Keene at 327-7500, ext. 511 or kkeene@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Matt Cate
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the Senate
The Honorable Rob Bonta, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Ken Cooley, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Tom Lackey, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the Assembly
Ms. Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office