



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Tourism, and Economic  
Development, *Chair*  
Appropriations  
Community Affairs  
Criminal Justice  
Regulated Industries  
Rules

## SENATOR JEFF BRANDES

24th District

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Joe Negron  
President  
404 S. Monroe Street  
409 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear President Negron,

Thank you for outlining your vision of an appropriate implementation of the will of the voters, who supported the landmark Amendment 2 ballot measure with an overwhelming 71% approval. I agree that the implementation of Amendment 2 must promote an open and competitive market to ensure patient access to the marketplace.

In my proposed legislation on the matter, Senate Bill 614, I presented my vision to accomplish this objective. While the Legislature took a different approach than the measures I proposed, I believe we can benefit from revisiting some of this proposed legislation's core principles to promote an open and competitive marketplace in the medical marijuana implementation process.

The Senate should agree that the drive of implementation legislation must be patient focused, not the interests of existing license holders. To promote this, I propose we address the following issues:

- Vertical integration should be avoided, as it may cause prices to rise and creates gaps in product availability to patients. Allowing a horizontally integrated regulatory framework is necessary to provide the flexibility needed to promote specialization and robust competition that will drive down product prices and maximize consumer choice.
- Local governments must play a role in determining the number of dispensaries and their locations within their communities.
- Arbitrary limitations on the number of MMTC licenses should be avoided. Doing this would restrict competition, establish high barriers to entry, and violate our principles of free and open markets. The appropriate number of MMTC licenses should be determinant upon market demand.

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 9800 4th Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (727) 563-2100
- ☐ 416 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5024

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**JOE NEGRON**  
President of the Senate

**ANITERE FLORES**  
President Pro Tempore

Page 2

I believe we can accomplish these goals by setting high quality standards, strong insurance and bonding requirements, robust seed-to-sale tracking, and a well-regulated registry. This model would promote ease of use and the availability of affordable medical products to suffering patients.

Thank you for your dedication to this important matter. I look forward to a thoughtful conversation on the implementation of Amendment 2. I hope that we can reconvene in a Special Session, which should include ample time for public input, to implement the will of the voters, so that patients and entrepreneurs alike may access the marketplace.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brandes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Brandes