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10 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 ANGEL McCLARY RAICH, DIANE  
12 MONSON, JOHN DOE NUMBER  
ONE, and JOHN DOE NUMBER TWO,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 v.

15 JOHN ASHCROFT, as United States  
16 Attorney General, and ASA  
HUTCHINSON, as Administrator of the  
17 Drug Enforcement Administration,

18 Defendants.

Case No. C 02 4872 EMC

**DECLARATION OF  
ANGEL McCLARY RAICH  
IN SUPPORT OF  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

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1 How My Medical Conditions and My Use of Medical Cannabis Affected My Children.....23

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1 I, ANGEL McCLARY RAICH, declare as follows:

2  
3 1. **Background:** I am a "medical necessity" medical cannabis patient. My medical  
4 records show I run a very real risk of malnutrition and starvation without the use of medical  
5 cannabis. I would starve to death without cannabis. I have been diagnosed with more than ten  
6 serious medical conditions including an inoperable Brain tumor, life-threatening wasting syndrome  
7 with severe weight loss borderline cachexia, a Seizure Disorder, Nausea, several Severe Chronic  
8 Pain Disorders, including Scoliosis, Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Syndrome, Bruxism,  
9 Endometriosis, a Tumor in my Uterus, and other documented medical conditions. My medical  
10 conditions are very complicated, complex, and difficult to manage. I am blessed to have a great  
11 primary care doctor and many dedicated specialists and extensive medical records. I have been  
12 permanently disabled since September 1995. I am a mother of two children. My son is 16 and  
13 my daughter is 14 years old.

14 2. I have been using cannabis as a medication for about five years, every two waking  
15 hours, every day, and I have not been adversely effected by my medical use of cannabis – just the  
16 opposite. On a good day if you were to see me face to face you may not even know I am  
17 disabled. I do not enjoy being disabled nor do I like taking medication every two hours, but I  
18 have no alternative. Medical cannabis keeps me alive and greatly reduces my suffering. I can not  
19 use Marinol pills; because of my extreme drug sensitivity, I am just not able to take them. Only  
20 the natural cannabis plant works for me.

21 3. I was in a wheelchair from January 1996 to August 1999 because of my many medical  
22 conditions and their debilitating effects on my body. In 1997 before the use of cannabis I was  
23 debilitating quite fast. All of my doctors were not getting anywhere with my treatment and  
24 nothing seemed to work, but by August of 1999 I was walking again because of medical cannabis.  
25 Cannabis was responsible for getting me out of my wheelchair and restoring my mobility on the  
26 whole right side of my body.

27 4. I had complications taking nearly every type of synthetic medication my doctors  
28 prescribed. Practically every single medication my doctors gave me would make me extremely ill,

1 causing me to vomit violently, sometimes for 24 hours. I had allergic reactions and chemical  
2 sensitivities to nearly all of the medications my doctors prescribed. For example, I am allergic to  
3 all narcotics and opiates. When I take any narcotic or any opiate, within about 20 minutes I am  
4 on the floor with my face in a pan or small trash can violently vomiting, I get the shakes, hot and  
5 cold flashes, and insane itching that nothing can stop. Being partially paralyzed on the floor, it  
6 was Hell. I could not hold myself up. I sometimes needed someone to hold up my head while I  
7 was vomiting. I was simply too weak to move.

8 5. By 1997 my doctors told me I would never walk again and that they could not control  
9 my pain. My medical conditions were triggering each other as I became increasingly worse. That  
10 is when my doctors and I started talking about medical cannabis as a medication to help alleviate  
11 my pain and suffering.

12 6. My specialists do not know why I can not hold onto my weight. In 2000, my wasting  
13 syndrome was out of control, becoming life-threatening and causing my weight to drop to only 94  
14 pounds. My health – even my life – was at great risk. My doctor worked quickly to raise the  
15 levels of cannabis in my bloodstream. Every time my level of cannabis drops, I can lose as much  
16 as one pound per day. My doctor says I must never be without cannabis treatments. I will always  
17 have to fight to keep my weight balanced; however, without cannabis it would make that fight  
18 impossible.

19 7. I suffer greatly from pain every single day. The prolonged pain and suffering from my  
20 medical conditions significantly interferes with my quality of life. I have not been pain-free for  
21 several years, but at least I am not in a wheelchair anymore thanks to medical cannabis. My  
22 experience is that cannabis allows me to combat all of my diseases daily and gives me the strength  
23 I need to fight to stay alive.

24 8. The hardest part of being disabled is watching the suffering in your children's eyes as  
25 they watch you endure such suffering with no end in sight. They experienced great joy knowing  
26 that cannabis was responsible for giving their mommy back to them. Cannabis saved my life and  
27 gave my children their mother back. I would rather use cannabis to end the suffering from my  
28 conditions, and be alive, than to suffer endlessly while I die knowing that there is something that

1 could help treat my conditions.

2 9. It may be difficult for the reader to comprehend the amount of intense pain and  
3 suffering described herein. When you become disabled one of the most difficult things is  
4 accepting that you are disabled and life as you knew it has ceased to exist. Your life changes  
5 forever from that moment on. When you are told you are *permanently* disabled it is even worse.  
6 Being permanently disabled has been very difficult for me to deal with, day in and day out, year  
7 after year. It is equally difficult for my family. As I fight to stay alive every day, my biggest  
8 challenge on a daily basis is combating my diseases, trying to minimize my suffering, and at the  
9 same time doing my best not to go into "overload" from excruciating pain. I do the best I can  
10 while remembering to have compassion for all life, and keeping my dignity and my grace. I am  
11 finding it a challenge to have compassion for the United State Government, when the Government  
12 wants to sentence me to death for being disabled and fighting to use a plant that is saving my life.  
13 I am weak and weary and afraid of being raided, and I am afraid of what my death would do to  
14 my children and my husband. I am afraid of being tortured by being denied cannabis, and I am  
15 afraid of the excruciating pain that would cripple me while being forced to starve to death.

16 10. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is attacking sick, disabled, and dying  
17 Americans. Since September 11, 2001, the DEA has continued raids on the California medical  
18 cannabis community. The DEA has been terrorizing and doing harm to other patients using  
19 cannabis. This is creating great fear for me and my children. I am just fighting for my life. I  
20 promised my children I would fight to stay alive and I am not about to go back on that promise.

21 My Medical Conditions, Symptoms, and the Stories Behind My Suffering:

22 11. I will do my best to explain all of my complicated medical conditions starting in my  
23 childhood. The time period between 1995 and 1999 is the most difficult and is very painful to  
24 explain. All of my doctors knew I was seriously ill and suffering from severe pain. The doctors  
25 became frustrated because they could not figure out what was happening to the right side of my  
26 body. My doctors kept changing my diagnoses while trying to unlock the mysteries to why my  
27 health was failing, only to end up with more questions than answers. Many doctors told me that I  
28 was too complicated for them to understand, that they could no longer help me, and then referred

1 me to another doctor. I had too many medical conditions affecting me the same time.

2       12. *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (P.T.S.D.):* From the age of four years old to  
3 when I was in the six grade my grandfather repeatedly molested, threatened, imprisoned, and  
4 tortured me. My doctors say that my grandfather was one of the worst child molesters on their  
5 rating scale. My grandfather was just below the child molesters that kill children. I was physically  
6 and mentally abused by other family members throughout my lifetime. I have worked very hard  
7 throughout my life to heal my wounds by getting the help I needed, and by being a good mother  
8 and a good citizen who obeys the laws. It was a long road, and I fought hard to keep abusers out  
9 of my life. I was diagnosed with P.T.S.D. in 1987.

10       13. Since the Federal Government escalated its raids on California medical cannabis  
11 patients, I have been experiencing more intense P.T.S.D. symptoms. I find myself overwhelmed  
12 feeling suddenly in danger, and I have become consumed with feelings of fear, helplessness, and  
13 horror. The constant threat I feel is making me re-experience my past traumas. It is causing me  
14 to feel the same mental, emotional, and physical experiences that occurred during the past  
15 traumas. This includes thinking about my past trauma and the threat of losing my life. For the  
16 past year I have been experiencing the following symptoms due to the threats and attacks from the  
17 United States of America's war against cannabis patients: I get bad dreams and nightmares of  
18 being attacked and killed by the federal government. I am also having flashbacks and nightmares  
19 of being unsafe and unprotected. Every time another patient or provider is raided, I am  
20 overwhelmed with anxiety and fear of being in danger, wondering if I will be the next patient to be  
21 attacked. I am deeply concerned about my own health and safety. I become increasingly more  
22 upset every time I am reminded about the trauma we patients face at the hands of our own federal  
23 government. I get real angry and aggressive feelings because I feel that I have to defend myself  
24 before the federal government breaks in my door, attacks me, incarcerates me, and kills me. My  
25 brain can not handle any kind of trauma. I feel the trauma is happening again, only now it is the  
26 federal government abusing me. I feel as if I am in danger. I experience sensations of panic, and  
27 trying to escape, and of thinking about attacking first, yet I am too sick and my body is too weak.  
28 These experiences are not voluntary; no matter how hard I try, I usually can not control them or

1 stop them from happening. I am just as innocent now as I was when I was a child because I am  
2 sick, disabled, and fighting to stay alive. I had my P.T.S.D. symptoms pretty much under control  
3 until the federal government started escalating its raids against California cannabis patients.  
4 Cannabis helps keep me from living in my past, helps me deal with flashbacks, and helps me cope  
5 with the P.T.S.D. symptoms being brought on by the federal government's actions against  
6 medical patients. It helps me have the courage to face my past abuse, the feelings of never being  
7 safe or protected by anyone, my anger, my sadness, and my hurt in a calm safe manner. Cannabis  
8 allows me to cope, and manage my P.T.S.D. symptoms.

9       14. *Scoliosis:* Scoliosis is a curvature of the spine. My first diagnosed medical  
10 condition was Scoliosis. I was in the seventh grade when it was diagnosed. The doctor said my  
11 back is shaped as a backwards "S" and my spine is twisted and rotated. The doctor said that if my  
12 spine were rotated two more degrees he would have had to do surgery and put a steal rod into my  
13 back, but instead I had to wear a back brace for three years. This was my first experience with  
14 chronic pain. The chronic pain in my back has never gone away, still to this day. In fact, as the  
15 years go by the chronic burning pain has become more intense and more difficult to tolerate. I  
16 experience burning pain in my back muscles and around my vertebrae. I learned at a young age  
17 how difficult it can be to be a handicapped person and how mean people can be to the disabled.  
18 While I was wearing my back brace children and adults made fun of me. I lost all of my friends,  
19 and no one wanted to hang around me anymore, just because I was in a back brace. It made my  
20 seventh through ninth grade years of school very lonely. I was not able to do much of anything; I  
21 was hurt, embarrassed, and in chronic pain. I could not even turn my head because the brace  
22 came up under my chin and went down to my tale bone. The brace was very painful. I remember  
23 crying all the time.

24       15. For years, my scoliosis has given me prolonged chronic pain in my spine that  
25 interferes with my quality of life. It also affects my mobility daily. One part of my spine is  
26 constantly moving, making loud painful cracking noises. Another part of my spine locks up,  
27 which is extremely painful. When this happens my neck, jaw, collar bone, shoulder, and rib cage  
28 lock-up tight, preventing me from moving freely and creating an unstable body structure. In that



1 condition moving my body creates severe chronic pain and excruciating chronic burning pain in  
2 my neck, jaw, back and sides, ribs, and down my right arm. Staying still is equally painful.  
3 Without cannabis my tendons, and ligaments feel like an over-stretched rubber band about ready  
4 to snap. Cannabis makes my muscles, tendons, and ligaments more pliable, allowing my body to  
5 move and go about my daily life. Cannabis allows me to cope with the severe chronic pain and  
6 burning every movement brings to my body. I notice a big difference when eating cannabis before  
7 going to physical therapy; it helps relax my muscles, making it easier for my physical therapist to  
8 help relieve some of the pain and burning and unlock my vertebrae and my other joints.

9       16. *Endometriosis:* Endometriosis come from the word "endometrium," which is the  
10 tissue that lines the inside of the uterus and builds up and sheds each month in the menstrual cycle.  
11 In Endometriosis, tissue like the endometrium is found outside the uterus, in other areas of the  
12 body. These growths cause disabling chronic pain, scar tissue, and other problems. Just before I  
13 turned sixteen years old I was diagnosed with endometriosis and my doctor told me to go home,  
14 pack a bag, and meet him at the hospital because they had to do surgery. My endometriosis was  
15 out of control. I was in excruciating pain and the cramps made it hard to move around. During  
16 the first two days of my period each month I was not be able to move at all. I had to stay down.  
17 I would curl up in a tight ball and cry for hours. In my second surgery for endometriosis the  
18 doctors not only found the endometriosis, but they also found several cysts. By the time I was 21  
19 years old I had already had three surgeries for endometriosis. Through the years my  
20 endometriosis has changed, and the operations become more complicated. Every time they open  
21 my stomach up they risk damaging my organs, it makes it more difficult to work around the scar  
22 tissue. About every four to five years I must have surgery for endometriosis and scar tissue. I  
23 can always tell when it is time for surgery because my periods become overloaded with pain, I am  
24 no longer able to move around, and I can't move my legs to walk. I become paralyzed from the  
25 excruciating pain and I bleed so heavily that I become light-headed from such fast blood loss. The  
26 pain can cause me to have seizures. To date, I have had seven surgeries for endometriosis, and  
27 with six out of the seven I woke up in the recovery room violently vomiting. The drugs made me  
28 vomit very violently, sometimes for over 24 hours, and after just having surgery vomiting is

1 extremely painful. In 2001 my pain from endometriosis again became so severe that I was in  
2 tears. I had surgery in November 2001. The hospital gave me a room on the oncology floor so I  
3 could medicate with cannabis, using my vaporizer in the hospital promptly after coming out of  
4 recovery. Most patients after having surgery can have a narcotic or opiate. When I got back to  
5 my room after surgery I was so weak, I was not able to prepare my cannabis or my vaporizer. A  
6 family member helped me by holding up my vaporizer while I medicated with cannabis. The  
7 nurses at the hospital all asked about the medical cannabis and how well it helped my medical  
8 conditions, and they wanted to see me vaporize with cannabis. My doctor told me I recovered  
9 faster with cannabis than the patients who use narcotics or opiates. The doctors and nurses were  
10 all amazed because they got to see how effectively cannabis works right before their eyes.

11 **17. Rotator Cuff Syndrome:** After my son was born in 1986 I went back to work in a  
12 lumber mill where I became seriously injured working at a glue machine. I could not move my  
13 right shoulder. I was in tears and in extreme pain and muscle spasms. I was taken to the hospital  
14 where I was diagnosed with rotator cuff syndrome. After having it for many years, the chronic  
15 burning pain is worse than when I was first injured. I went to therapy for months until I was sent  
16 to another specialist who gave me five sessions, of five shots each, of cortisone in my right  
17 shoulder and my neck. The cortisone helped for about three years, then the excruciating pain  
18 returned. My right shoulder never went back to normal. I have problems doing anything  
19 repetitive with my right arm, hand, shoulder, or shoulder blade. I suffer from excruciating burning  
20 pain, my shoulder freezes up, and I lose the mobility in my shoulder. It is cannabis that allows  
21 me to gain back some of this mobility. Through the years I have also had several injuries to my  
22 right shoulder (See paragraph number 18.). Cannabis makes the muscles, tendons, and ligaments  
23 around my shoulder joint more pliable, allowing me the use of my right arm. Cannabis allows me  
24 to cope with the severe chronic pain and chronic burning associated with rotator cuff syndrome. I  
25 noticed a big difference when eating cannabis before going to physical therapy; it helps relax my  
26 muscles making it easier for my physical therapist to help relieve some of the chronic pain and  
27 burning and unlock my shoulder and my shoulder blade.

28 **18. Other Past Spinal Injuries:** The year of 1991 was a bad year for me. I was in

1 three accidents in a two month time period. All three accidents injured my spine and the right side  
2 of my body. I slipped and fell, injuring my spine on the right side; I was rear-ended by a big  
3 truck, injuring my back, neck, pelvic area, and bladder; and then a car hit me while I was walking,  
4 injuring the right side of my body again. It was all very painful and my body did not heal as fast  
5 as it should have. I had to see a chiropractor and a physical therapist for months. My body is  
6 extremely fragile and it does not heal easily, so I do a lot of suffering. Having injury upon injury  
7 caused permanent damage to my body structure. I have continued to endure constant chronic  
8 pain and chronic burning ever since.

9       19. *Multiple Chemical Sensitivities, Allergic Reactions, and Asthma:* My treatment  
10 is complicated by the fact that I am violently allergic or I have severe multiple chemical  
11 sensitivities to almost all pharmaceutical medicines. This interferes with the treatment of all of my  
12 medical conditions, and it means my suffering can not be controlled by synthetic medications.  
13 This makes it extremely difficult for my doctors effectively to help me combat my diseases. I have  
14 problems with asthma and allergies, which make me wheeze and cough from the lack of air. I  
15 also have problems with chemicals that are in many skin products, air fresheners, perfumes, and  
16 detergents. I am not able to use pharmaceutical asthma medications and I am not able to take  
17 anything for my allergies. I become nauseated from most over-the-counter medications. So I just  
18 suffer. All of my doctors including my specialists have been supportive when it comes to my  
19 medical use of cannabis. I do not have any other alternative to battle my many complicated and  
20 complex medical conditions. Cannabis is maintaining my health. I am not just sensitive to  
21 synthetic prescriptions, I am also chemically sensitive to things such as chemicals that some  
22 cannabis growers use. These additives are not harmful to most patients; I am just extremely  
23 sensitive.

24       20. *Severe Chronic Pain:* Every second I experience chronic pain in varied degrees,  
25 ranging from a medium level of pain to a complete overload of pain, brought on by one or a  
26 combination of the chronic pain conditions from which I suffer. When I am able to sleep it  
27 provides meager escape from the ever present chronic pain I experience. I have to force myself to  
28 do everything, including getting out of bed every day. I wake up several times per night and

1 rarely get a restful night's sleep because of the chronic pain. Because I have an extremely high  
2 pain threshold, I can occasionally function and still try to go about my life, even in the midst of  
3 experiencing pain. On frequent occasions, however, the chronic pain becomes so great that I  
4 experience difficulty performing everyday activities, or the chronic pain is so overpowering that I  
5 become completely debilitated and cannot get out of bed. Then I am usually down for a few days.

6 21. When my nervous system becomes too overloaded with pain I experience muscle  
7 spasms and seizures. My treatment is complicated by the fact that I am violently allergic to  
8 almost all pharmaceutical medicines. Cannabis, however, has the effect of making it easier for me  
9 to tolerate my constant chronic pain, although it does not make the pain go away. The efficacy of  
10 cannabis is well established as an analgesic. Cannabis is the only medication that keeps me alive  
11 and makes my severe chronic pain more manageable. Without cannabis, my chronic pain would  
12 be even more torturous.

13 22. *Paralysis:* Due to all of the traumatic events in my life, in 1995, one last traumatic  
14 event caused my brain shut the whole right side of my body down for years, leaving me in a  
15 wheelchair until late 1999. I was barely hanging on because of all the pain and suffering I was  
16 forced to endure. It took many years and many doctors to diagnose all of my medical conditions,  
17 and I was suffering unexplainable, excruciating pain. My doctors were giving me many different  
18 kinds of prescription drugs; these same prescription drugs were making me vomit violently. My  
19 health continued to spiral downward, leaving me with no hope at all. Months went by. After  
20 feeling that my doctors were not helping me I changed doctors once again. Even though I felt  
21 like I was drowning in pain, I kept the promise I made to my children that I would never give up  
22 again. I was going to do whatever I had to do, to get well and become healthy, or as healthy as I  
23 could be given my medical conditions. A new doctor sent me for a brain MRI in May 1999. It  
24 showed I have a one centimeter brain tumor on the left side of my brain, adding yet another  
25 physical medical condition. My doctor also sent me for an EEG, which showed I was having  
26 seizures. Then my doctor sent me to the Stanford University Hospital Epilepsy Center and a brain  
27 tumor specialist. Because I was not able to use the right side of my body and I was having  
28 cognitive functioning complications. During this same timeframe I was once again diagnosed with

1 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

2 23. The use of cannabis was responsible for getting me out of my wheelchair. After I  
3 began using cannabis in 1997 I started feeling nerve sensations in my body. I stopped using  
4 cannabis from off the street in 1998. I started to get better from the medicine I obtained from the  
5 Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative. The better quality cannabis made all the difference in the  
6 world. The sensation slowly started coming back into my right side. I was so happy, I really  
7 wanted to walk again. By August 1999 I was able to move my right arm, toes, ankle and my foot.  
8 Then I was able to make small movements in my toes and fingers, and eventually I was walking  
9 again. Learning to walk again was very difficult and painful. Without cannabis being continually  
10 in my body I would surely become wheelchair bound once again; this possibility is very  
11 frightening to me and my family.

12 24. Cannabis has given me faith, hope, happiness, better health, and family. It helps tone  
13 down my pain and suffering, not to mention: it keeps me alive. Cannabis proved to be the only  
14 medicine that brought back feeling in the right side of my body and got me out of my wheelchair.

15 25. *Two Demulen Tablets:* In September 1995, three days before I lost feeling from the  
16 waist down, I went to a new doctor regarding my severe endometriosis pain and complications. It  
17 was really time for me to have surgery again for my endometriosis. The doctor did not want to  
18 give me surgery, instead she wanted to put me on birth control pills to control some of the  
19 symptoms. I explained to her that I was allergic to all forms of birth control pills. The doctor  
20 told me that just because I was allergic to a drug when I was a teenager and in my early twenties  
21 did not mean I was still allergic it. I took the pills on the advice of my doctor and I have been  
22 paying for that ever since. After taking just two Demulen pills, my health was taken away  
23 forever.

24 26. I became permanently disabled in September of 1995. My chronic pain condition  
25 became complex right from the start. I was at work when all of the sudden I felt a strange  
26 sensation go down my leg. In a matter of moments, my right leg was like Jell-O, bright red, and  
27 cold as ice. I could not walk on my right foot because my ankle was so weak it would fall to the  
28 side. I was taken straight to the doctor. I was quite afraid because I could not feel my body from

1 the waist down on the right side of my body. The next day I was dragging my leg around and I  
2 was unable to stand. Fear raced through my body and tears came from my eyes. The severe  
3 chronic pain I was experiencing was putting me in a world of pain and suffering, and making my  
4 life a living hell and my doctors' jobs extremely difficult when it comes to treating any one of my  
5 medical conditions.

6 27. The chronic pain I was experiencing caused me to become partially paralyzed on the  
7 right side of my body from the waist down and I was unable to use my right leg. My scoliosis and  
8 my endometriosis made things even worse for me. I did end up having surgery for my  
9 endometriosis and scar tissue six weeks after I took the birth control pills. It is extremely difficult  
10 for me to battle the physical manifestations of chronic pain and my nervous system is very fragile.  
11 I experience complications when my chronic pain conditions trigger each other, which makes all  
12 of my symptoms worsen.

13 28. *Suicide Attempt:* In August of 1997, shortly before I discovered the benefits of  
14 medical cannabis, my chronic pain levels were so high for such a prolonged period of time that,  
15 my body and soul racked with agony, I attempted suicide – as a desperate attempt to end the  
16 excruciating pain and my suffering. I was drowning in chronic pain for years, it was the only  
17 escape I could perceive from my torment. The lack of sleep effected my thinking process, until  
18 my brain was foggy and I could not see past the excruciating pain. I could not live another day  
19 with that kind of chronic pain, which nothing was helping. I was lost, I lost my faith, I lost my  
20 will, and I lost any hope I had left. I just could not handle the torture from the chronic pain  
21 anymore. I am blessed to be alive today, for I have been given a second chance at life. That night  
22 I made a promise with God that I would do God's work if He gave me back my legs, and I  
23 promised to do my best not to complain about the chronic pain if God would helped me find  
24 something to help ease the pain. A couple of weeks later, a nurse who had been watching me  
25 suffer asked me if I had ever thought about using medical cannabis. I was offended because I was  
26 not in support of marijuana use. My doctors could not figure out what had been wrong with me  
27 for over two years. At the time I was in a wheelchair and partially paralyzed on the entire right  
28 side of my body. I wanted my suffering to end as soon as possible. I was becoming sicker and

1 sicker from the prescription drugs the doctors were pumping into me, only to vomit the pills up  
2 prescription after prescription, until the cure was worst than the disease. I felt hopeless and I just  
3 wanted my suffering to end.

4 29. My numerous chronic pain conditions, as with all my medical conditions, present a  
5 complicated mosaic of problems with a confusing interplay between each other, exhibiting the  
6 potential of a vicious spiral that exacerbates all of my medical conditions. When I first started  
7 experiencing extreme levels of chronic pain I did better at hiding my pain and not letting the pain  
8 show on my face. Year by year it gets harder and harder to hide the chronic pain my body feels  
9 because pain takes over my body. Then there are the days I just can not get out of bed at all  
10 except to go to the bathroom. The chronic pain keeps me down until my body stops burning,  
11 throbbing, cramping, and my muscle spasms go away. I am tortured by chronic pain of all  
12 different kinds. It turns out to be a never ending circle of chronic pain. The chronic burning pain  
13 that goes on for days is the worst torture of all. It is hard to wake up every day and thank God  
14 for being alive, but I do thank him everyday for giving me back my legs so I can walk. So I will  
15 do whatever I have to do to ease this excruciating pain and to fight to stay alive. I have to do it  
16 for my children, I have to do it for myself, and I have to do this for my husband. I love them all  
17 so much I want to be with them until I die of old age, not because the Federal Government raids  
18 me and puts me in jail where I could experience an even greater debilitating pain while I starve to  
19 death.

20 30. Dealing with high levels of chronic pain everyday for years becomes more and more  
21 difficult with each passing year. My body is deteriorating. I am a prisoner of my medical  
22 conditions and I am trapped in my body being made to live the rest of my life in severe chronic  
23 pain. Is not that enough? I will do whatever it takes to stay alive and as pain free as I can  
24 possibly be. When my nervous system becomes too overloaded with pain I experience muscle  
25 spasms and seizures.

26 31. **Muscle Spasms:** I regularly have muscle spasms that stem from my chronic pain.  
27 Spasms are sudden, involuntary muscular contractions, either of a single muscle or of a group of  
28 muscles. They are often very painful. Cannabis helps relax my muscles, making them more

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25 34. **Severe Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Syndrome (TMJ) and Bruxism:**

26 Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Syndrome causes facial pain. The temporomandibular

27 joint (TMJ) is a sliding joint in the jaw. The number of joints in the human body is 360.

1 happens the only way I can open my month is to force it open by cracking my temporomandibular  
2 joint, which is very painful.

3 35. Bruxism is forceful grinding and clenching of the teeth usually during sleep. The  
4 pressure that is generated across the teeth can be an incredible amount of force. Problems occur  
5 as a result of these forces being applied over many years.

6 36. Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Syndrome and Bruxism cause muscle  
7 spasms and muscle cramps that create severe chronic pain in my face and jaw muscles. Due to the  
8 Bruxism and TMJ, I am losing the bone and gum support in my mouth, and I am experiencing  
9 early periodontal problems. Because of these early periodontal problems, my dentist had to  
10 remove teeth in 1997, 1998, and 2001. I have two more teeth that are about to fall out. In effect  
11 my teeth have loosened because of the "rocking" back and forth. My bone, gums, and teeth ache  
12 and throb all the time and are very sore, and are sensitive to hot and cold. My mouth and jaw hurt  
13 all the time. Sometimes in the morning when I wake up I can't move my jaw and I can't chew.  
14 My whole face hurts and aches from the muscle spasms and the chronic pain. It becomes difficult  
15 to talk when my jaw locks up on me. Nothing helps the chronic pain go away completely. When  
16 the muscles in my jaw are overused they become sore and spasm. The spasms even make my  
17 neck hurt. I get chronic headaches from having TMJ and Bruxism. Cannabis helps release the  
18 muscle cramps and relax my jaw, face, and neck muscles in order for my temporomandibular joint  
19 to crack so I can slightly open my mouth to eat something soft. Cannabis allows me to cope with  
20 the chronic pain and burning in my jaw and neck. Without cannabis being contentiously in my  
21 body I would not be able to relax the muscles around my mouth. Without the use of cannabis my  
22 TMJ and Bruxism would spin out of control, worsening my life-threatening weight loss, and  
23 rapidly causing malnutrition, starvation, and cachexia. For these reasons it is extremely dangerous  
24 for me to be without the use of cannabis.

25 37. *Life-Threatening Weight Loss, Malnutrition, Cachexia, and Starvation:* Since  
26 1998, I have experienced great difficulty maintaining a healthy weight. My physicians, including  
27 my gastroenterologist, are unable to diagnose the root cause of my weight problems or to  
28 prescribe an effective course of treatment. One fact, however, is clear: I literally cannot eat



1 without a sufficiently high level of cannabis in my system. Without cannabis, my weight can  
2 precipitously drop as much as one pound per day. As a five-foot four-inch tall woman, I dropped  
3 from 106 pounds to a dangerously low weight of 93 pounds during the course of four weeks in  
4 which I could use cannabis only on two weekends pursuant to a family court order (which was  
5 subsequently overruled due to my rapid health failure) in a child custody fight with my children's  
6 father. I struggle with Life-Threatening Weight Loss and Wasting Syndrome, a medical condition  
7 generally diagnosed as Anorexia/Cachexia meaning loss of appetite and rapid weight loss. (I do  
8 *not* have a better-known condition called anorexia nervosa, a psychiatric disease in which patients  
9 are obsessed with being thin and have an unrealistic body-image.) My body-image is accurate; I  
10 see how thin I am and I work extremely hard everyday to eat enough. I simply cannot eat without  
11 the aid of cannabis. I eat between 2500 and 3000 calories per day, yet I have trouble getting my  
12 body to gain weight, for reasons that my physicians do not understand. The efficacy of cannabis  
13 is well established for stimulating appetite and promoting weight gain. The federal government  
14 claims cannabis has no accepted medical use and it claims cannabis is harmful to your health.  
15 Cannabis *is* safer than death. Without cannabis, I would run the very real risk of Malnutrition and  
16 Starvation. One result of Starvation is death. Dropping weight fast can become critical. Every  
17 time I have tried to cut my medical cannabis treatments back my weight dropped immediately. It  
18 is then difficult to bring my weight back up. This is how my doctors and I know that I require  
19 two and one-half ounces per week (equaling over eight pounds per year). Fighting to keep my  
20 weight up every single day is my biggest battle.

21       38. *Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS)*: In 1997 I was first diagnosed with fibromyalgia.  
22 The symptoms slowly lessened, but then flared up again in early 2002. Fibromyalgia is a  
23 widespread musculoskeletal chronic pain and fatigue disorder that is often precipitated by physical  
24 trauma. Fibromyalgia means pain in the muscles, ligaments, and tendons – the soft tissue in the  
25 body. When my fibromyalgia acts up, my body feels extremely fatigued and every single muscle  
26 in my body screams out pain. When my body overloads with pain I will be flat on my back for  
27 days. The chronic pain keeps me down until my body stops burning, throbbing, cramping, and my  
28 muscle spasms go away. The best way I can describe it is "everything hurts". The chronic pain

1 and the stiffness feel like a big diesel truck ran over my body, with the groups of muscles that are  
2 frequently used hurting most intensely. I also have neurological symptoms that are associated  
3 with FMS and some of my other medical conditions. As mentioned, I get extremely fatigued.  
4 The best way I can describe the fatigue is that it is like a "brain fatigue" in which I feel totally  
5 drained of energy. It feels as though my arms and legs are tied to concrete blocks, and I have  
6 difficulty concentrating. I am unable to focus or make big decisions on the days I am  
7 overwhelmed by this brain fog. I have problems falling asleep and staying asleep due to my high  
8 levels of pain. Many FMS patients, including myself, have problems with deep levels of sleep.  
9 "Stage four" sleep is constantly interrupted by bursts of awake-like brain activity. I spend nights  
10 with one foot in sleep and the other one out of it. Other symptoms I have from FMS are  
11 premenstrual syndrome, painful periods, chest pain, severe morning stiffness, and cognitive  
12 functioning problems. Sometimes I have a numbing feeling in my arms and legs, tingling  
13 sensations, muscle twitching, skin sensitivity, dizziness, and impaired coordination. I also have  
14 problems with losing my balance and stumbling.

15 39. Without cannabis my tendons and ligaments feel like an over stretched rubber band  
16 about ready to snap. Cannabis makes my muscles, tendons, and ligaments more pliable, allowing  
17 my body to move and go about my daily life. Cannabis allows me to cope with the severe chronic  
18 pain and chronic burning every movement brings to my body. I noticed a big difference when  
19 eating cannabis food before going to physical therapy; it helps relax my muscles making it easier  
20 for my physical therapist to help relieve some of the pain and burning. Without cannabis being  
21 continuously in my body I would never be able to tolerate the burning and pain. My chronic pain  
22 levels become so high it makes even my skin hurt, making it is very difficult for me mentally to be  
23 in my body. Cannabis rescues me from the torture I have to endure from fibromyalgia. When I  
24 go to bed at night my whole body may throb like a strong heart beat, making it impossible to fall  
25 asleep. Cannabis helps my fibromyalgia symptoms and allows me to have a life with my family.

26 40. *Non-Epileptic Seizures:* I started having non-epileptic seizures in 1996, though my  
27 doctors did not diagnosis the seizures until 1999. When I have a seizure, I can lose awareness,  
28 have uncontrollable movements of my arms or legs or both, shake all over, and fall to the ground.

1 Between seizures I experience problems related to memory, language, mood, sleep, and other  
2 brain functions. I am able to feel my seizures as they are come on. Sometimes, I experience an  
3 extremely bad headache and/or a strange feeling in my throat just before I have a seizure. When I  
4 force myself to go about my daily life while I am having functioning problems, or if I move around  
5 too fast, or even if I become frightened for any reason, I can have a seizure. Because I have a  
6 brain tumor my seizure specialist at Stanford Epilepsy Center tells me that my seizures could turn  
7 into epilepsy. My seizures are extremely painful. Sometimes, I have one seizure after another.  
8 They can trigger several of my other conditions and make all of my chronic pain conditions worse.  
9 When this happens I usually suffer for days having a combination of more seizures, and I will have  
10 body jerks, muscle spasms, and twitches, which cause excruciating pain that are unbearable for me  
11 to deal with.

12 41. Non-epileptic seizures can be caused by many different factors, including impaired  
13 blood flow to the brain, sleep disorders, severe chronic pain, psychological disturbances, and  
14 various other brain disturbances. It is not uncommon to see this type of seizure in individuals who  
15 have experienced a traumatic event or who are under various types of stress. In my case I have  
16 had a lifetime full of traumatic events, one after another. I have also had my share of severe  
17 chronic pain.

18 42. Cannabis helps slow down and minimize body jerks, muscle spasms, and twitches and  
19 helps to control the excruciating pain caused by my seizures. If I smoke or vaporize cannabis at  
20 the first onset of seizure symptoms, the cannabis can prevent the seizure. If I am unable to use  
21 cannabis in time to prevent the seizure, I need to medicate with cannabis when I am alert enough  
22 to smoke or vaporize to prevent another seizure.

23 43. *Inoperable Brain Tumor:* In 1999 an MRI showed I have a brain tumor. I have a  
24 circumscribed one centimeter densely enhancing tumor in the left petrous apex that mildly  
25 deforms the ventromedial aspect of the left temporal lobe. It is a Meningioma or a Schwannoma  
26 brain tumor. My doctors say the tumor is too deep for them to do surgery to remove it.

27 44. My doctor wants me to continue medicating with cannabis in the hope that, among its  
28 other benefits, it will prevent my brain tumor from growing.

1           **45. Uterine Fibroid Tumor:** In 2001 I was diagnosed with having a uterine fibroid  
2 tumor. Uterine Fibroids are benign tumors of muscle and connective tissue that develop within or  
3 are attached to the uterine wall. They slowly enlarge, frequently intruding into the cavity of the  
4 uterus or growing out beyond the normal boundary of the uterus. Even one small fibroid can  
5 cause many problems, sudden severe pain, and heavy menstrual bleeding. I have had several  
6 problems with my tumor in this past year. I suffer from sensations of fullness and pressure in my  
7 lower abdomen, severe pelvic cramping, abdominal fullness, and an increase in urinary frequency.  
8 The biggest problem is extremely heavy menstrual bleeding. I bleed so fast that I suffer from  
9 light-headedness and become dizzy and nauseous to the point of almost passing out. I have  
10 always had nausea but it is now worse than before. The heavy bleeding and the severely painful  
11 menstrual periods tend to keep me down flat on my back for two or three days per month.  
12 Cannabis helps minimize monthly PMS symptoms. Cannabis helps relax my pelvic muscles, helps  
13 minimize pelvic pain, and helps release my muscle spasms and cramps, allowing me to function  
14 more easily physically.

15           **46. Recent Spinal Injury:** The effects of my scoliosis worsened several months ago  
16 after a very large man fell on my head, injuring my neck and back. The injury caused excruciating  
17 pain at the site of the injury, excruciating burning pain in my vertebrae, nerve problems going  
18 down both arms, and difficulties with my thumbs. The injury also caused some of my other pain  
19 conditions (TMJ, Rotator Cuff Syndrome, Headaches) to worsen. After a few months, the  
20 resulting pain caused me to experience multiple episodes of seizures and muscle spasms, which  
21 were also painful in their own right, further exacerbating my other chronic pain conditions and  
22 their related symptoms, and creating new and painful secondary injuries. Perhaps most critically,  
23 the injury caused my Fibromyalgia Syndrome worsen (see paragraph 38).

24           **47. My Medical Cannabis Use:** Before I became a medical cannabis patient I was  
25 against recreational marijuana use. In late 1997, my doctor felt cannabis would be an effective  
26 medication to treat my many complicated and complex medical conditions, and gave me my first  
27 recommendation to use medical cannabis. I eventually became a member of the Oakland Cannabis  
28 Buyers' Cooperative (OCBC) in early 1998, before the federal government filed suit against it.

1 The OCBC was trying to provide me with medical grade cannabis. I was one of 14 “medical  
2 necessity” patients that the Oakland Cannabis Buyers’ Cooperative was fighting for in the United  
3 States Supreme Court in 2001. The federal government, however, prevented the OCBC from  
4 giving me safe access to the one medication (medical cannabis) that keeps me alive. At that point  
5 I was forced to obtain my medication on the street. I was robbed, ripped off, and taken advantage  
6 of by the people selling the marijuana to me or to a friend on the street. Black market marijuana  
7 is not medical grade cannabis. One really does not know what is in that marijuana. It may  
8 contain mold, fungus, pesticides, other drugs, rat droppings, or god knows what. One does not  
9 know how it was grown or processed. It is just not safe.

10 48. To be safer and to save money, I tried to grow my own cannabis about five years ago.  
11 Even though I am good at growing most house plants, I found that I could not grow my own  
12 cannabis. Indoor cannabis does not grow like a weed, as some people think. The cannabis plants  
13 needed special care, and they needed more than I was able to give physically. I kept having insect  
14 problems and I did not have enough room or ventilation in my house. I could not grow enough  
15 medicine for my medical needs. Thus, as a single mother, to buy cannabis, I had to make choices  
16 such as which bills to pay that month, and whether I would have enough food to eat after I fed my  
17 children.

18 49. I am now blessed to have two wonderful caregivers who grow all of my medicine and  
19 are willing to take a huge risk with their own liberty to help keep me alive. That is true  
20 compassion. I am sure we would all be facing mandatory sentences just because we are growing  
21 a plant that happens to keep me alive and allows me to be here for my children. I would not be  
22 alive if it were not for these two caregivers. My caregivers both work very hard to help me fight  
23 my diseases. My caregivers grow my medicine specifically for me. They do not charge me, nor  
24 do we trade anything. They grow my medicine and give it to me free of charge. They both grow  
25 different strains of cannabis for me to treat my medical conditions. One strain of medical cannabis  
26 helps my chronic pain, one helps my seizures, one helps me eat and hold onto my weight, and  
27 another may helps control my nausea. All of these different strains of medical cannabis are very  
28 beneficial and essential to my survival. Not all strains of cannabis work for me. Because the

1 different strains have different growth cycles, one caregiver could not grow all of the medical  
2 cannabis I require to keep my weight up and my pain levels down. Moreover, I can not risk  
3 having all of my medicine in one place because I can not afford to lose my whole garden if there is  
4 a pest problem or if it were raided by federal agents. The caregivers who grow my medicine are  
5 my co-plaintiffs, known as in this litigation as JOHN DOE NUMBER ONE and JOHN DOE  
6 NUMBER TWO.

7 50. In the cultivation of my medical cannabis, JOHN DOE NUMBER ONE and JOHN  
8 DOE NUMBER TWO, of Oakland, California, use only soil, water, and nutrients originating from  
9 within the borders of the State of California. JOHN DOE NUMBER ONE and JOHN DOE  
10 NUMBER TWO also use only growing equipment, supplies, and lumber manufactured within the  
11 borders of the State of California. JOHN DOE NUMBER ONE and JOHN DOE NUMBER  
12 TWO cultivate for me medical-grade cannabis free of mold, fungus, pesticide residue, and other  
13 contaminants in the particular strains that I have found to be most effective in treating my specific  
14 medical conditions.

15 51. Both of my caregivers not only grow my medical-grade cannabis but they also process  
16 the cannabis into hashish or keif. Additionally, I process the cannabis into cannabis oil for  
17 cooking, I make cannabis therapeutic massage oil, I make cannabis therapeutic skin balm, and I  
18 make cannabis foods.

19 52. I provide the following information to my caregivers to try to keep them safe and  
20 protect my medicine in case law enforcement agents raid the garden areas:

- 21 A. Copies of my doctors' recommendations for the use of medical cannabis,
- 22 B. A copy of my Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative I.D. Card that states I am a  
23 "medical necessity" patient and confirms that my recommendation is valid,
- 24 C. Copies of some of my medical records, and
- 25 D. A signed caregiver statement that says my caregivers provide my medical cannabis  
26 to me.

27 In total, my caregivers grow over eight pounds per year of medical-grade cannabis for me.

28 53. *Amount of Cannabis I Use:* I use over two and one-half ounces of

1 processed medical cannabis per week, or over eight pounds of cannabis per year. Cannabis does  
2 not get me "high." I cook and bake my own cannabis foods. I use my homemade cannabis oils to  
3 make massage oil and balm that I use to rub over my body, which helps my muscle spasms and  
4 cramps. I even used it on my stitches after surgery. It works like a miracle on rashes and hives.  
5 The worst side effect is the fear that at any moment the DEA could kick my door in and cause my  
6 and my family irreparable harm. My children, my husband, and myself are all aware of the risks  
7 we have been taking in order to keep me alive. We are willing to risk it all by telling about our  
8 family, and telling the Court all about my medical use of cannabis. Is the only effective way for  
9 me safely to treat all of my many medical conditions without becoming sicker. With cannabis I do  
10 not suffer from the side effects I experience with synthetic prescription medications. I am not a  
11 medical cannabis patient because I choose to be one – I am a medical cannabis patient because it  
12 is a necessity to keep me from dying. Taking a pill would be much easier and would take less  
13 time, but I simply do not have that option the way most others patient do. I have no other  
14 medical or legal alternative to sustain my life. Cannabis saved my life and gave my children their  
15 mother back. I would rather use cannabis to end the suffering from my conditions, and be alive,  
16 than to suffer endlessly knowing that there is something that could help treat my serious medical  
17 conditions. Cannabis is the only medication that keeps me alive and makes my medical conditions  
18 more manageable and my life livable.

19       54. *How I Use Medical Cannabis:* I smoke or vaporize cannabis every two waking  
20 hours, and have every day since late 1997. Upon starting to use cannabis in 1997 I immediately  
21 noticed a huge difference in my medical conditions. I noticed an even bigger difference in 1998  
22 when I started to ingest medical cannabis by eating cannabis brownies, cakes, candy, and milk.  
23 Using the smoked and vaporized cannabis and the ingested cannabis at the same time made the  
24 biggest improvement in my medical conditions. One of my problems is I am unable to sleep due  
25 to high levels of pain. If I am lucky enough to fall asleep, I may wake up in the middle of the  
26 night in tears. When I eat cannabis before bedtime it helps me sleep better. Rest is important for  
27 my healing process. Cannabis massage oil and balm used topically on my muscles and joints  
28 makes a big difference. Using all of these methods together seems to make the biggest impact on

1 my health, and helps me to manage and cope better on a daily basis. It has made all the difference  
2 in the world. My doctors noticed, my children noticed, my friends noticed.

3 55. It is a miracle I am now walking, it is a miracle I am even alive. I still have  
4 functioning problems and extremely high levels of pain even with cannabis, however cannabis  
5 controls the pain enough so I can walk again, and it keeps me from wasting away and starving to  
6 death. I am not willing to give up my life or go back into a wheelchair without a fight. Cannabis  
7 really does help my conditions. It keeps me alive and helps minimize my suffering. My cannabis  
8 use and doctors' recommendations are all documented in my medical records.

9 56. I know I am taking a huge risk by talking publicly about my medical cannabis use. I  
10 am in no way going to stop using cannabis. I am fighting to stay alive. I want to live! I am  
11 extremely afraid of being raided by federal agents. The fear I experience is having a negative  
12 effect on my medical conditions. If I am raided by federal agents or incarcerated and kept from  
13 using my medicine, I would be gravely ill in a short amount of time. My children need me to take  
14 care of them and help them grow up. I have never been arrested nor am I a threat to anyone. I  
15 am just a mother who is fighting to stay alive. I feel that the United States Attorney General and  
16 the DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson are waging a civil war against the sick, disabled, and  
17 dying Americans of our country. I am filing this lawsuit to fight for my constitutional right to life.

18 57. *My Media Attention:* Because of all the media coverage I have received, I am at  
19 greater risk of being raided by the federal government. After cannabis had freed me from my  
20 wheelchair I became more active in helping California medical cannabis patients. After the  
21 Supreme Court's 2001 decision in the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative case, I received  
22 significant national and international media coverage. My photos and quotes were used in many  
23 newspapers across the United States, including the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. I spoke on  
24 national television saying I could not follow any federal law that purported to prevent me from  
25 using cannabis. Since then I have spoken at numerous events and conferences educating the  
26 public about the use of medical cannabis. I have taught classes on medical cannabis at high  
27 schools and colleges, and police academies.

28 58. *My Community Education and Community Service Activities:* I do my best to



1 become involved in my community when my body allows me to participate. I am on the Oakland  
2 City Council's Medical Cannabis Task Force. I work with the Alameda County Public Health  
3 Department and the Alameda County Department of Children and Family Services regarding  
4 medical cannabis issues. I have spoken before city councils. I do not want other patients to suffer  
5 as I have to. We need to be taken off the battlefield of the "Drug War" right away. My life  
6 depends upon it. I feel I have been left with no choice: I have no alternative but to speak out.  
7 However, I fear that makes me an easy target based on numerous raids by federal agents against  
8 patients and growers. Outspoken patients have recently been targeted and raided by federal  
9 agents.

10           59. *How My Medical Conditions and My Use of Medical Cannabis Affected My*  
11 *Children:* My children have had a very difficult time adjusting to my many complex medical  
12 conditions. They know more than anyone how medical cannabis brought their mommy back to  
13 them. Before 1995, I was the neighborhood mother, who played basketball, roller bladed, played  
14 frequently with the children, managed my son's little league baseball team, and helped at the  
15 school. We would have all of the neighborhood children over to bake cookies, and we would do  
16 children's hobbies and crafts. We did all kinds of wonderful and fun things together. Our lives  
17 have never been the same since I became disabled, and never will be normal again. My medical  
18 conditions have effected my children emotionally. When I became disabled in September 1995, my  
19 daughter had just started kindergarten. She was so little that she just did not adjust well to my  
20 medical conditions. At that young age my daughter would actually hit me when I was in my  
21 wheelchair. She was so angry because her mommy was gone, replaced by my diseases. My  
22 daughter was trying to beat the disease out of my body. My daughter was too little to understand  
23 what was happening to her mommy. She would lay on her bed and cry with sadness. I was  
24 unable to hold my daughter in my arms as I used to because the burning pain in my body would  
25 become worse if someone touched my skin, and my body was very debilitated. I really missed  
26 holding both of my children. I love them so much, I would do anything for them and I would do  
27 anything to keep them safe from harm. As the years passed my body continued to deteriorate,  
28 and I became weaker and weaker. The weaker I became from my diseases, the harder it was for

1 my children.

2 60. One night I heard my daughter crying in bed. I went to her side and asked her why  
3 she was crying. She told me she was crying because I was disabled and sick. She wanted me to  
4 get out of my wheelchair. She wanted her mommy back. She asked me why, why can't I get  
5 better, why does her mommy have to be in a wheelchair. She cried for a long time. She often  
6 cried at night about my medical conditions. She missed me. It broke my heart. I told her to keep  
7 praying and maybe God would answer her prayers. I thought prayer was the best thing. She told  
8 me she had been praying and God did not hear her prayer. I told her to keep praying and ask Him  
9 to answer her and maybe her prayers would come true.

10 61. I do my very best to be there to support both of my children. My children and I have  
11 a great open communication. They know they can talk to me about anything. I have to protect  
12 my children and do what is in their best interests.

13 62. Both of my children know that medical cannabis is legal under California State law. I  
14 asked my children if they wanted me to stop using my medicine because of the federal  
15 government. They both told me, "No Way." The expression on their little faces said it all. My  
16 children know that I am alive today because of medical cannabis. I do not want the DEA to raid  
17 my home and traumatize me or my family.

18 63. Medical cannabis has only medical benefits for me, I have not had one single negative  
19 experience from using cannabis medically. The most scary side effect is knowing that at any  
20 moment federal agents could kick my door in and hold me and my family prisoner. My children  
21 and my husband are all aware of the risks they have been taking in order to keep me alive. We are  
22 now willing to risk even more by disclosing my medical use of medical cannabis under oath  
23 herein.

24 64. **Conclusion:** For years I felt as if I was suffering in Hell. What I had to endure was  
25 unbelievable and indescribable torture. Somehow, I found a miracle sent down from heaven by an  
26 angel that brought me up from the pits of Hell, and saved my life. I was given medical cannabis!  
27 My life was saved by this new miraculous medicine and my life was forever changed. Healing had  
28 begun, and healing was my gift. I have seen the changes in my body, my doctors have seen the

1 changes in my body, and my family and friends have seen my miracle. I am sorry, I can not stop  
2 using medical cannabis or I will die. I am not giving up the miracle I have been given to save my  
3 very life. I will not go back to Hell for anyone or anything. I implore the federal government not  
4 to take my life from me. I want to live and grow in peace.

5  
6 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
7 foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of  
8 October, 2002, in Oakland, California.

9   
10 Angel McClary Raich