



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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ELECTION LAWS
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WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2016

Department of Public Health
Medical Use of Marijuana Program
Attn: Bryan Harter, Director
99 Chauncey St, 11th floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Director Harter,

I was recently approached by proponents of two medical marijuana dispensaries, seeking support for their proposals in the Allston Village neighborhood. I put a post on my website about the possibility and also notified several thousand people by email that the post was up. Overall, the response was overwhelmingly positive. A few people questioned the motivation for siting a medical facility in Allston among college kids, as opposed near a hospital. However, these questions were very much in the minority.

The overwhelming majority who responded were in favor. Across all channels (web, email and phone), the responses were approximately 45-10 in favor. Generally, people are more likely to respond to an issue if they have concerns. The fact that only 10 responded with concerns suggests that relatively few among the thousands who were exposed to the message have serious concerns -- most were supportive or indifferent.

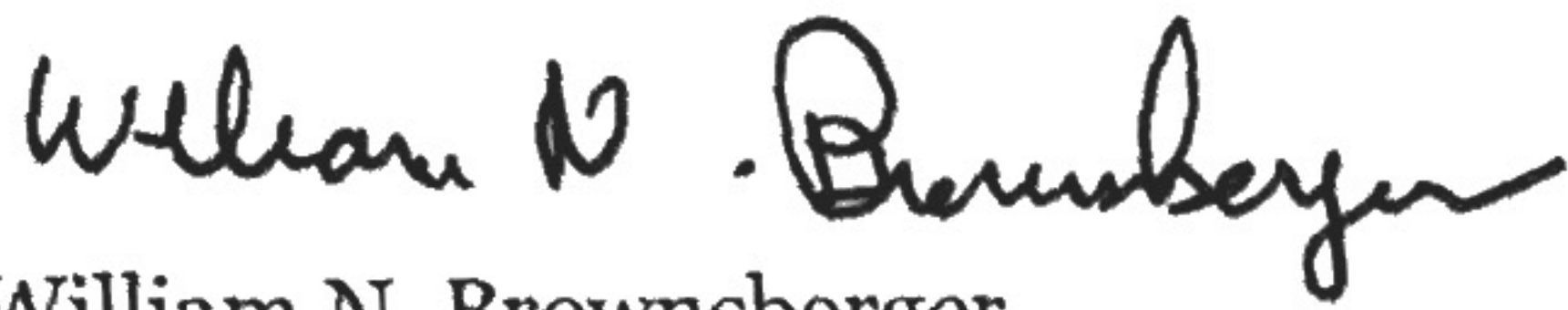
My web post included details on the proposal made by the first group that approached me. However, the responses I received were all high level in nature. They did not pertain to the details of the proposals, just generally the concept and the location.

It seems clear that there is broad community support in Allston and Brighton not only for the concept of medical marijuana, but also for the concept of locating a dispensary in the vicinity of Harvard Avenue.



As to the competing proposals, I defer to the groups that have the chance to review the proposals in more depth -- I am unable to personally conduct the kind of process necessary to vet the relative merits of the competing proposals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William N. Brownsberger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William N. Brownsberger
STATE SENATOR