Zurich, 20 June 2025

Open Letter to the Commission for Social Security and Health (SGK)

For a fair, safe, and practical regulation of cannabis – Businessin the name of patients and consumers

Dear Members of the Health Commission,

We are following your work on the new legal framework for cannabis regulation in Switzerland with great interest. We – the Medical Cannabis Association Switzerland (MEDCAN) and the Verein Legalize it! – warmly welcome the fact that politics is finally taking this issue seriously again.

The first results from pilot projects already demonstrate how effective a regulated distribution of cannabis can be – whether for health protection, youth protection, or consumer safety. It is now all the more important to create legislation that works in practice and takes the needs of the people affected seriously.

Medical reality: access remains inadequate
Despite the 2022 legal amendment allowing medical prescriptions, access to medical cannabis remains unsatisfactory in many areas. Numerous patients are denied reimbursement by their health insurance, and many medical professionals hesitate to prescribe – often out of uncertainty or fear of stigma. Prices remain unaffordable for many. This leads to a two-tier healthcare system where only the well-off can afford effective cannabis therapy, while others – even with a doctor's prescription – are left behind.

Clear demand for legal home cultivation – individually and collectively
As patients and consumers, we consider it essential that home cultivation of cannabis is enshrined in law. We are very pleased that your draft legislation includes this option in principle – this is an important step in the right direction.

However, allowing only three plants is not enough. Yields per plant are unpredictable and depend on many factors. What matters is not the number of plants, but the actual quantity a person may produce according to their personal needs. It is equally important to allow collective cultivation. This fosters social structures, improves quality control, and encourages mutual oversight.

Regulation instead of repression: for safety, quality, and protection
A regulated market protects public health – particularly against contaminated or adulterated cannabis that still circulates on the black market. No one should have to resort to dangerous substances simply because legal and safe alternatives are unavailable. With clear legal guidelines, the black market can be effectively reduced.

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Our demands for the new law:

- Legal home cultivation based on actual need – not an arbitrary plant limit
- Collective cultivation in associations or clubs, ensuring safety and social inclusion
- Mandatory reimbursement of medical cannabis by health insurance and a clear distinction between medical and recreational use – prescriptions based on medical diagnoses must be recognized as legitimate treatment and reimbursed accordingly
- Strengthening medical care, more specialized knowledge, and destigmatization
- Guaranteed quality access for all – regardless of income
- Clear and fair regulation instead of prohibitionist policies that ignore the daily reality of those affected
- A practical legal framework that does not overburden authorities with excessive bureaucracy – only this will ensure broad acceptance and effective implementation

We thank you for your efforts and your commitment. Please help create a law that is courageous, humane, and practical – and that reflects real-life needs.

Always remembering that the cannabis plant is a centuries-old part of global cultural heritage, both as a medicine and a source of enjoyment – banned and destroyed by colonialism and cultural imperialism to suppress other peoples and dissenting voices. We must take that responsibility seriously.

With kind regards,

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