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Medical Marijuana Hearing Wraps Up In Iowa

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Iowa Board Of Pharmacy Considers Whether Cannabis Has Medical Potential

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COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa -- The Iowa Board of Pharmacy held its final hearing Wednesday about medical marijuana, with advocates on both sides of the issue offering opinions.



Video: Marijuana Debate Wraps Up In Iowa

The last of four hearings took place inside a ballroom within Harrah's Casino in Council Bluffs. The board now must issue its recommendation to the Legislature.

Terry Mitchell supports the use of medical marijuana. He suffers from a degenerative disc disease causing him to slouch and use a cane to get around.

"I can't stand straight up," Mitchell said. "With smoking cannabis, I can get just as close as I can get."

Without the drug, Mitchell said his ability deteriorates.

"By the time two weeks rolls around, I look like a gorilla. I'm dragging my knuckles on the ground and my knees are buckled, and it even hurts to try and straighten up."

Susie Dugan said legalization would create problems, not solutions.

"It's really a dangerous drug and it's not benefiting those sick people at all," she said.



The board also heard from medical doctors on both sides of the issue.

The board has requested input from medical practitioners, caregivers, law enforcement members, researchers and members of the general public.

Maine on Tuesday became the fifth state to allow medical marijuana.

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