

Lawmaker Thanked for Marijuana Legislation

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Letter to the Editor – Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County

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It has been nearly 20 years since California voters approved Proposition 215, the first step in allowing sick patients to possess and use marijuana for medical purposes. Since then, the Legislature has struggled to enact an accompanying regulatory framework. Legislation would be introduced, debated, and then defeated. Until now

In September, the Legislature finally enacted a regulatory framework for medical marijuana, which was then signed by the governor in October.

This was no easy feat. A disparate group of stakeholders consisting of growers, sellers, patients, as well as those in local government and law enforcement all came together to construct a package which set parameters on the product.

One of the reasons the Legislature finally approved a regulatory package has to do with the extensive involvement of Assembly Member Tom Lackey.

Simply put, Lackey exercised profiles in courage. It is hard for a Republican to engage in an issue like marijuana, and despite the political risks, he proceeded.

Lackey was able to communicate with other Republicans and share an open dialogue with rural counties and law enforcement groups.

In the end, he was able to ensure local control protections remained in place and ensure key aspects to rural, cultivating counties were addressed.

Doing the right thing is never easy, and many Democrats and Republicans have simply walked away from controversial issues like medical marijuana. On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California, I applaud Lackey for engaging, and California's rural counties thank you for your leadership.

Lee Adams

Chairman, Rural County Representatives of California

Sierra County Supervisor

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