

Compassionate Use Campaign

*Brad Wiltshire:
Husband, Father,
Dedicated Firefighter.*



Brad Wiltshire is a loving husband who has been married to his wife Lucy for 15 years. He and Lucy have a wonderful 14-year-old daughter, Allisun. Brad has diligently supported and cared for his family through his work as a firefighter.

As a highly decorated 20-year veteran of the Ocean City fire department, Brad has dedicated his entire career to saving lives and protecting his community. He has received numerous commendations for both valor and civil service including Congressional commendations for his efforts in New York City after 9/11. Throughout his career, Brad never had a single disciplinary action against him, including during the last two years while he was using medical marijuana off-duty under the direction of his doctor.

Brad suffers from Dystonia, a disorder characterized by painful muscle spasms. Dystonia does not interfere with Brad's ability to do his job but it does deprive his body of rest. Medical marijuana helps relieve Brad's symptoms and allow him to get the rest his body needs.

But now, Brad faces the loss of the job he has dedicated his life to simply because he is using medical marijuana recommended by his doctor and approved by the State of New Jersey.

Brad's municipal fire department has implemented a random drug testing policy. Firefighters who test positive for controlled substances will face punishment, including suspension without pay and/or termination. Originally, the policy contained an exception to protect medical marijuana patients, but that reasonable protection was removed from the final policy. When Brad told his supervisors that he was using medical marijuana off-duty for his dystonia, the department issued a series of disciplinary actions against Brad that could culminate with him losing the job he has done so well and dedicated his life to.

Brad uses medical marijuana under the direction of his doctor and as authorized by the State of New Jersey. He uses medical marijuana only at home when he is off-duty to provide his body with enough rest so that he can continue to do his job and support his family.

Now, even though he is following the law and performing his job as required, Brad faces the loss of that job and ability to support himself and his family.

When the New Jersey Legislature passed the *Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act*, it did not intend to force people to choose between their jobs and their best medical treatment. The language in the original law protects medical marijuana patients, but the legislature should clarify these protections by passing additional legislation, Senate Bill 2161 and Assembly Bill 2482.

New Jersey has long honored its local first responders who make our communities safe. Brad is one of these heroes, with a spotless 20-year record of courage and service. We should be celebrating this local hero rather than punishing him.