



Chuck wants to dance with his girls.



Charles Kwiatkowski has been battling Multiple Sclerosis for twelve years. While he has great doctors and a loving family to support him through his illness, Charles' struggle has been complicated by muscle spasms, pain, nausea, and facial neuralgia that none of his medications relieved. Yearning to reduce both his own suffering and the burden MS has placed on his family, Charles decided to try medical marijuana.

Charles recalls, "I was hesitant about trying marijuana, worried about how or where I would get it, but I was desperate for relief. I couldn't stand the pain. I wanted to be the husband and father my wife and three girls deserve. It worked. As a result of the relief medical marijuana provides me, I can do things that a normal 37 year-old can do, like cook dinner for my wife and give my three-year old a piggyback ride."

Charles' wife remembers the difference medical marijuana made in her family's life: "It was

horrible to watch my husband suffer and difficult to explain to our children why 'Daddy' was in pain all the time. Besides being ineffective, his prescribed medicines were extremely costly and had side effects that were worse than some of his symptoms. Medical marijuana has dramatically improved Charles' life and ours. But, because Charles can't legally get medical marijuana in New Jersey, we are forced to consider the unthinkable—separating our family and having Charles move to a state where medical marijuana is legal, or uprooting our entire family and leaving our home to move to a state with legal medical marijuana."

Medical marijuana alleviates many of Charles' MS symptoms. New Jersey does not permit the medicinal use of marijuana, so Charles, his friends and family, are forced to break the law to ease his suffering. No one should be forced to make such a choice.

Why should New Jersey allow seriously ill patients access to medical marijuana?

Because it's the compassionate and the common sense response to suffering.

Medical Marijuana *Common Sense & Compassion*

Help ease suffering in New Jersey. Join the Compassionate Use Campaign. For more information call 609-396-8613.

please visit our website at: www.drugpolicy.org/newjersey

