

It has come to my attention that many people question why it is that CA pay Sales Tax to the Great State of Michigan.

First and foremost, we are Patriots of this Great State. And in opening CA Brandon and I endeavored to do MUCH more than “open a weed shop”, as so many others rush to do. Our Mission Statement demanded that we benefit patients first, but that we also find a way to benefit the non-medicinal citizens of Michigan as well.

CA is on a Mission to create a new INDUSTRY. A new and peaceful, legitimate, above board, professional, clean, and decent new sector of the economy with no stigma attached to it whatsoever. You simply CAN NOT achieve that, or make the kind of revenue that we do in this new industry without paying taxes.

Need I remind anyone what Al Capone went to prison for? That’s right, tax evasion. If you want to be a respected and legitimate part of the professional community you simply have to pay taxes. Especially in such a sensitive new area of the economy it is important to make these inroads with the State. Nobody likes to pay taxes, but we do. We do it because it is our duty. We do it because Michigan needs us to. We do this at CA because we are lucky enough to live in a free country, and a free State, where the citizens even have a chance to create such a new and exciting industry from the grassroots up.

America is a nation where the majority rules, but the minority is not (supposed to be) trampled on. What about the citizens of Michigan who didn’t vote for Proposal 1? What about the people who have nothing to do with, or may not agree with, medical marijuana? Should they really be expected to be silent while the landscape of their hometown changes around them if these entities can’t even say that they contribute to Michigan’s roads, Michigan’s recently cut education budget, health care costs, and our State’s treasury. Well, even if you think they should remain quiet, they won’t. They have a voice too, and if you give them no respect at all, you will provoke a backlash from them. CA does not thumb their nose at the non-medicinal community, and is proud to say that we contribute to State un-employment insurance for people who have lost their jobs, and many, many other good causes by paying Sales Tax to the State of Michigan.

But I think it more proper to turn the question around... why AREN’T YOU paying taxes to the State of Michigan???

Has it crossed your mind that if CA can manage to thrive, and even grow into other cities, while paying large legal bills (to forge the way for other entities) AND while paying Sales Tax to the State of Michigan... WHY CAN’T THE OTHERS FOLLOW SUIT?

If I can ask this question now, how long do you think it will be before the general populace asks the same question – “Hmmm, well if these guys at CA manage to grow and thrive without advertising in the mass media, and while paying legal fees, AND still paying Sales Tax to MY State... these other guys must be able to, right? Or are they just stuffing their pockets like most Big Corps do in the end?”

Finally there is a quick and easy short answer. We are acting on the advice of a professional tax consultant. That's what professionals do when they have a question that requires an expert opinion. The opinion he found was that obviously when you provide for the patient SPECIFICALLY ATTACHED TO YOU it is clearly a service, and there is no service tax in Michigan. However, once you begin assisting and administrating the transfers of other member-patients, you DO in effect become a "Flea-Market", and Michigan DOES have a tax that applies here.

So there should be a clear line delineated here between 1) people who want to help the State of Michigan and ALL of it's citizens. And 2) people who just want to "open a marijuana shop".

In my humble opinion, if you are among those who truly want to help the State of Michigan as CA does, and protect your patients and caregivers from any possible trouble, you will pay your taxes like a good citizen, too.

If you are one of those who simply wants to jump on the bandwagon and "open a pot shop" before it is too late, you will try to berate others for doing what they believe is right and make yourself look silly.

If you are one of the places that truly desires to serve patients, and just can't bring yourself to pay taxes yet, or perhaps believe that you shouldn't, I wish you the best of luck in all of your endeavors, and I encourage you to be as safe as professional as possible as you do so. I agree that it would be much easier if Michigan had a service tax passed, but I also encourage you to reconsider.

Why? Because whether you care to realize it or not, your State NEEDS you right now. Your State is facing serious budget issues that will effect all of us and our children. Please DO NOT turn your back on the very State that passed the initiative that made all of this possible.

Please join CA on our quest to prove to the non-medicinal community that not only is medical marijuana not dangerous, it is a BENEFIT to EVERY SINGLE CITIZEN of the Great State of Michigan.

CA thanks all of you for all of your support!

Matthew C Taylor