



February 23, 2007

Dear Representative,

I have been informed that HB 6715 relating to medical fraud marijuana will be heard in the Joint Committee on Public Health. On behalf of Save Our Society From Drugs, a national non-profit prevention and policy organization that has constituents in your state, I am urging you to reject HB 6715 and keep marijuana as a so-called medicine out of Connecticut.

Medical excuse marijuana is the most common tactic used by long-time advocates who promote ballot initiatives and legislation to legalize marijuana. It is a toxic weed that has been rejected as medicine by most major health organizations, including the FDA. Modern medicine relies on proven scientific research, not polling results. The true intent of the pushers behind the drug legalization movement is far from compassionate and not at all scientific.

There are several reasons why marijuana in smoked form is considered unhealthy and dangerous. First, it is difficult to administer safe, regulated dosages. Second, marijuana is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I drugs are classified as having a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and lack of safety for use of the drug under medical supervision. Third, marijuana is linked to serious respiratory problems such as emphysema and lung cancer. Smoking marijuana combines the worst elements and long-term impacts of smoking tobacco, plus the mind altering component and impaired judgment.

There is no controversy about the use of purified chemicals in marijuana to treat any illness; however, marijuana cigarettes are not medicine. Marijuana is not only harmful, but also addictive and potentially deadly. The false portrayal of smoked marijuana as medicine, coupled with its decriminalization, has contributed to the increased use of marijuana and other drugs by young people. If children perceive marijuana as harmless or, worse yet, as a helpful medicine, they won't think twice before experimenting.

It is imperative to reject this bill today. Please help keep marijuana out of Connecticut. If you would like further information, we will be happy to provide detailed, science-based information and/or meet with you or your staff. You may also wish to visit www.dfaf.org or www.saveoursociety.org for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin L. Fay".

Calvina L. Fay,
Executive Director