

February 26, 2007

To Members of the Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 6715:

I urge everyone NOT to support this bill! It does not matter that 11 states have already approved this, illicit drugs are illegal, by our federal government! Marijuana can be harmful to everyone, with an abundance of unknown chemicals as well as secondhand smoke. I believe this will only cause more problems in the future. I do have compassion for those who may feel they need a hit (marijuana) to feel better but again, there are legal drugs for this purpose. Pharmaceuticals are in fact that- clean drugs that have been tested and approved. I believe Marinol fits this category. Marijuana and it's seeds do not. We will be opening up Pandora's box if we legalize this product.

Last week our legislators heard testimony from a 10 year old young man on second hand smoke in autos. Here's a thought, what about second hand marijuana? What about an ill person at a CT college, who still wants to receive their degree no matter how ill they are as they have that right, as of today, thanks to our elected officials smoking is prohibited in all public places- if this bill is passed, can this person smoke in their dorm room? What about their roommates or the floor of the dorm as smoke travel, wouldn't this be second hand smoke? Wouldn't this be going against what our officials have voted on? Isn't this part of the young man's comment about second hand smoke and that bill already on the floor?

I certainly have compassion for those that are ill, in fact my sister has cancer and my good friend has crones and my mother in law has issues with her eyes. I volunteer for many organizations, including the local ambulance squad for the past 20 years, I see sick people all the time. I can go on with so many more examples, I am sure you get the picture, legalizing marijuana is NOT the answer.

Our government sent my son to Iraq twice, both times with a gun in his hand and a knife attached to his side at all times for his safety and the safety of those around him. He was sent there on a mission. To my knowledge, he never used the weapons to hurt anyone although he felt safe knowing he had them. I do know however that many innocent lives have been taken since our troops were sent there.

By putting marijuana in the hands of the ill will take more innocent lives, maybe not on purpose, but it surely will happen. If we give them or allow them to have marijuana, without prosecution, will these patients sell it for food or fuel to live? We have seen this happen already with their prescribed drugs. These drugs have also been stolen and used by addicts, or by children at bowl parties. Too many innocent lives have already been taken and I don't want to see any others die from mistakes taken by our elected leaders. Can you hold your head up high when an innocent victim dies knowing that you supported this bill? I could not!

Please do not support this bill!
Debbie Angell
CT Elks State Drug Awareness Chairman