

Testimony By Brian C. to be submitted and read at the Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing 3/14/11 and beyond in relation to marijuana decriminalization & Palliative  
Care Bills. *Bin C*

Congratulations on your election and happy new year! The following is a letter I sent to governor Dannel Malloy and have received a positive response. The letter/message, its points, and concepts are still relevant although the letter isn't directly addressed to you, I hope you take the time to read it. I ask that you read it and deeply reflect on the words said. Please consider introducing a bill, that will take a chunk out of the deficit, and make this state a better safer place... THE CONSTITUTION STATE. Thank you very much for your time, efforts, and understanding.

Dear Governor Dan Malloy,

When I heard you won the election I was absolutely elated, I prayed to the lord that we would finally have a democrat as our governor, it happened, thank god and congratulations. To me, democrats are much more in touch with the middle class then republicans. At this moment where you are preparing a plan to tackle the budget deficit, please consider decriminalizing marijuana in some shape or form, as you indicated in the Hartford Advocate that would be something you would support. And coming from the "city" I'm sure you're familiar with the irrationality of ruining honest peoples lives over personal marijuana possession, and the massive costs to enforce these archaic ideals through incarceration and otherwise. Instead of paying money to incarcerate people and cause further problems in society, wouldn't it make sense to give the "violator" an infraction/ticket, and make money for the state?? Along with freeing up space in jail. Massachusetts has had this policy for over a year, and has Massachusetts run into more problems by decriminalizing marijuana? Has Massachusetts turned into "drug heaven"?, a dirty dangerous "slum" plagued state? Do people feel scared to travel into Massachusetts after weed was decriminalized? In fact Massachusetts has been looking at legalizing marijuana. Connecticut would not turn into "drug land" or some "slum". Massachusetts is still as beautiful of a state as it always was, and to be honest, with these ridiculous laws, I'd like to move to Massachusetts, and I'm sure many other people feel the same way. I also realize after taking a "Drugs and Society" class that investigating and incarcerating people for marijuana is a "business", government doesn't want to see marijuana decriminalized because there will be less investigations into the matter, and employees in the corrections system fear losing their jobs. That is a disgusting, selfish fact, that people fear losing their jobs if marijuana was decriminalized. In your inaugural speech you said we need to reduce state government. Alcohol prohibition didn't work and failed miserably, and neither has the war on weed, \*making weed illegal\* has cost more lives from violence/anger/control (people who are given a record become hardened and don't care anymore), while the substance itself when used by itself has not been known to cause any deaths from overdose or other dangerous health issues (unlike Alcohol and cigarettes or even caffeine), in fact I know first hand, marijuana holds very beneficial medical properties (contradictory to its scheduling as a class 1 drug because of the DEA's strong-arming and intimidation), it's no wonder to me that pharmaceutical companies want to make marijuana based/derived medicines, and already have (Marinol). Are pharmaceutical companies interested in an alcohol or tobacco based medicine?? Sounds like an implausible concept.... And I know it does, with good reason. \*\*The simple truth is, when you tell people they can't do something, they want to even more-so\*\*, and where we are at with the war on weed is a vicious, violent, destructive, costly, and

irrational cycle (over such a benign substance which in reality is medically BENEFICIAL). I'm not sure why people want to do something more-so when they're told they can't, but it could have to do with the fact that this is America which is supposed to be a free country, and good (criminal record free) people like me don't want to be told what they can do in their spare time, which interferes in no shape or form with other peoples lives whatsoever. I obviously don't condone D.U.I. whatsoever. I'm talking about \*strictly personal\* activity on private property. I grew up with two alcoholic parents and my whole life I remember nothing but arguing, verbal abuse, physical abuse, & other highly irrational & aggressive alcohol fueled behavior.. The pain and memories of these experiences are unexplainable, unforgettable and occur everywhere, everyday because of alcohol, which is accepted to be legal. My father assaulted me and went to jail because he was drunk, my parents divorced. Lives ruined forever because of a \*legal\* physically AND mentally addicting substance which kills countless people and shatters lives. While on the other hand, ingesting marijuana does not cause these kinds of hostile, judgment impaired, violent, irrational, addictive, and highly dangerous behaviors. What's the worse thing that occurs when someone ingests marijuana and tries to interact with other people?.. They don't talk much, they're not as active, they don't want to look you in the eyes, and are relaxed and peaceful. Someone who just smoked weed sure as heck isn't going to turn belligerent, abusive, dangerous, irrational, and reckless, as a drunk would.. If anything they are slumped on their couch. I'm a college student, I have NO CRIMINAL RECORD WHATSOEVER, and have too much of a promising future to be labeled with one. I live an honest, respectful, hard working, Christian, peaceful life, as do many other marijuana smokers who are wrongfully perceived as criminals. I suffer from diagnosed third stage \*chronic\* lyme disease (which was first introduced into this state... Plum Island??), have arthritis in my neck/10 -15% disability in my neck.. At a young age, and I CANNOT function comfortably without smoking. Lyme disease for me has caused joint pain, joint popping, stiffness, VERY FREQUENT vomiting (it is a very serious illness), and muscle spasms among other symptoms I could go on and on about. If I don't smoke, I can't eat ANY food without vomiting it back up (marijuana shuts off the gag reflex), If I don't smoke I'm very much in pain and uncomfortable, and have to deal with obvious muscle spasms, also ironically known as "ticks". In the fall of 2010 I was examined by a forensic psychologist to determine if I had any kind of brain damage after being the recipient of my 6th accidental concussion, I told the doctor before all the testing began that in the past I had smoked weed every day. After hours of testing and days of waiting for the doctor's final lengthy report, I sat down with him and he told me I showed no signs of brain damage from my concussions at all. I then asked him if smoking marijuana has affected my brain function (learning, etc) in any way whatsoever, and he quickly replied "NO it has not." and also remarked on my intelligence, potential, and future with both my musical skills, and my computer sciences education. The outlook on marijuana needs to change in this rich snooty acting state, there are much more benefits to this substance, and decriminalizing it is only right because it does show "medicinal benefit" as 15 other states have realized and recognized. Meanwhile irrationally, people are constantly dying, and having their lives ruined because of alcohol and/or tobacco. Ill even bring caffeine into the picture again, if I drink too much caffeine it can cause shaking and heart problems.. If you drink caffeine quite regularly and then abruptly stop that routine.. You suffer from severe \*withdrawal\* symptoms. Does marijuana do that?

Absolutely not. These are facts that everyone realizes and if people have an interest in marijuana they're not going to be told ignorantly what to do in their spare time, especially when a shot of Espresso is worse. We need rationality, compassion, logic, to stop wasting money on enforcement of this, and by your words in the Advocate and you coming from Stamford I do believe you understand what I'm saying. Martin Looney came close with his efforts last year, but we had an older republican governor who's rich and not familiar with the "city" or in touch at all with the middle class. Banning this is costing too much financially, and is hurting society far more then if it was decriminalized. Right now it's like the wild west/alcohol prohibition, things are in the hands of gangs, and hardened individuals bitter over such unjust, invasive laws... ALL OF US are in a more dangerous position then if weed was decriminalized. The vicious cycle needs to stop. It costs too much to society in every conceivable aspect. It just doesn't make sense to continue on like this. Budget deficit or not. Every state around us, (MA, RI, ME, NJ, VT, etc) has recognized this. Dan Malloy, if both of your parents were alcoholics who ruined your life with alcohol fueled craziness, would you want to pick up a bottle..... or a joint, given the two?? I will not be my parents, and I will not have my government tell me it is ok and better to be more like my parents, instead of smoking a green vegetable. Everyone relaxes at the end of the day, whether it be by reading a book, smoking a cigar, having a few drinks, or smoking a joint. I haven't heard any news stories referring to the latter in Massachusetts or elsewhere where that's been decriminalized. Please deeply reflect on this letter, we need to stop ruining honest and innocent lives, make this state safer, and help this budget deficit instead of making it worse because of archaic un-American ideals. I'm all for getting cocaine, heroin, LSD, and other synthetic/processed/dangerous drugs off the street, I have never tried any of these drugs (god is my witness) and I and many others have the self control not to put themselves into the path of inescapable addiction, therefore with certainty, the concept of marijuana being a gateway "drug" really is not true, that concept is something created and bred in our society and policies. When a cup of dunkin donuts has the potential to cause more problems then ingesting a green vegetable, I don't feel like this is America. As I said, I'm very ill, and this is all I have to provide me relief, and to be to able to ingest food, at this time. Do I sound like someone who belongs in jail for a personal choice that doesn't affect others whatsoever? There are many more people like me, and who feel the same way about what's illegal and what's legal, it doesn't make sense whatsoever, and this policy ruins innocent lives, and puts innocent people in danger... In Conclusion I'd like to say Congratulations, and right now I'm thrilled you were elected. Thanks for your time, and I'm praying deeply for your compassion, understanding, and reflection on this matter (how it can help our state), and my letter. Best wishes..

Sincerely,  
Brian C.

*Brian C.* 3/10/11

P.S. <http://www.mapinc.org/newsnorml/v10/n1054/a01.html>

~Journal-Inquirer 12/22/10

The writer is a retired Manchester police captain and a speaker for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

**P.S.S.**

I am extremely grateful that civil and medical decriminalization bills have been proposed and raised. However, I am concerned that the language of the Medical/Palliative care bills proposed do not touch upon Lyme Disease enough, possibly leaving me out of the equation, and this is a very serious debilitating chronic disease that effects every single organ in the human body and makes life extremely difficult and full of suffering, sickness, pain, and discomfort. Marijuana is the only thing that alleviates these problems for me and allows me to live a quality life. Even though my condition is heavily documented, I fear I may be refused a prescription for marijuana because the language of the bills raised (currently) doesn't name Lyme Disease whatsoever (If that is for political reasons, I already understand there is extreme hesitation to acknowledge this disease in our state, but please at least touch upon more of Lyme Diseases symptoms, if noone wants to Flat out name Lyme Disease along with AIDS and other debilitating conditions already in these bills). The only symptom I see listed that would warrant me receiving a prescription for marijuana treatment is "Wasting Syndrome" Which I battle every day, but I feel its only right for a few more symptoms of Lyme disease to be added into the bills language to ensure access to relief for the many in our state who suffer from this very large problem that was first introduced into our state. (I foresee doctors possibly not being sure if they can legally treat Lyme disease or some of its symptoms with marijuana with the current language of the bills, although Lyme has been treated with marijuana in several other states) I greatly appreciate your compassion and understanding on this serious matter.

I fully authorize this letter to be submitted as testimony in support of ~~the~~ marijuana decriminalization and Palliative Care laws for the hearing on 3/14/11 with the Judiciary Committee, and any hearings beyond that with regards to the above matters.

Ben C 3/10/11