

BILL 1015 -- 3/14/11

My name is Holly Murphy. I am a cancer survivor. I am here to support Bill 1015. I've experienced the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. My Cancer treatment was brutal.

Imagine food poisoning, flu, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, pain. Now imagine those symptoms 24/7 for ten days. Ten days of misery every three weeks for five months.

Everything in your world causes nausea – the smell of your pet, noisy children, the sight of food. Anti-nausea drugs reduce nausea and vomiting, but they don't eliminate it completely. Palliative Marijuana does. You're losing weight. You can't eat because food has a metallic, bitter taste. Even ginger ale makes you gag. Palliative Marijuana stimulates your appetite. You can actually eat and not throw up. The taste of food isn't so bad.

Your joints hurt despite prescription pain killers. The fatigue is overwhelming. You're tired even if you've slept. You have no strength. Palliative Marijuana combats fatigue. It gives you some energy. It helps you wake up, move about, eat breakfast, shower, feel human.

Chemotherapy drugs make you so sick that you'll try anything to relieve the horrific side effects. Palliative Marijuana provides that relief. It's a plant that is good medicine. Not the hippy drug of the '60s. Not an illegal street drug, but Marijuana in a Medical Form.

For a cancer patient, there is no “high.” There is no “euphoric feeling.” It simply helps you survive the side effects. It is a medicine that can decrease the suffering, and it needs to be available to everyone in the State of Connecticut who is enduring a debilitating illness.

The drugs that I have been prescribed have a litany of side effects. Nuclear Medicine has vicious side effects -- BUT, it also saves lives.

“Every form of healing has a place.”*

Medical Marijuana makes the journey through cancer treatment tolerable.

You cannot oppose this bill if you or someone you know has walked in my shoes. Please legalize the cure for the side effects of Nuclear Medicine. You, our lawmakers, have the power to make a tremendous difference in the lives of sick and terminally ill people.

Please use compassion and care when you consider Bill 1015.

*Dr. John Dimartini, The Secret, 2006