

My name is Kathleen O'Callaghan. I am here in support of both bills SB 1014 and SB 1015.

I worked for the State of Connecticut as a Court Stenographer, Official Court Reporter and Acting Supervisor of Transcript Services for 22 years when I retired on disability because I have Multiple Sclerosis.

My symptoms include spasms, extreme pain and insomnia among others. I attempted pharmaceutical drugs to ease these symptoms but the side effects are not conducive to my lifestyle. This includes a possible invasive surgery for an implant to ease the spasms, but I would like to avoid that if possible.

It has been my experience that marijuana helps to ease these symptoms. I am the lucky one. There are many more people out there with MS that don't do as well as I. Other people with MS have told me marijuana also eases their symptoms.

Please consider passing both of these bills as people should not go to jail because they use a natural plant to ease these torturous symptoms.

In addition, please consider the tax savings for all of us if we do not need to burden police officers, court systems and prisons for the possession and use of marijuana.

Thank you.