



1623 Connecticut Ave NW; Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 293-4414
Fax: (202) 293-8344
www.SchoolsNotPrisons.com

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 1015 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA
Raised HB 6566 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPASSIONATE USE OF MARIJUANA**

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sam Tracy and I am a lifetime resident of South Windsor, CT. I am currently a student at the University of Connecticut, where I am studying political science, and am a member of the school's student government. I am also president of UConn Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a group dedicated to reducing the harms of drug abuse and creating policies that are based on science and reason. I would like to begin by saying that I wholeheartedly support the legalization of medical marijuana, which is a commonsense policy that would alleviate the suffering of countless chronically ill people.

However, there are some individual provisions in this bill that I would like to address, namely lines 69-71, which says that medical marijuana may not be used "on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property." This line seems to be unfairly singling out adults who are attending college and live in a dormitory. I do not understand the logic behind this provision, but will take a moment to address some possible concerns.

The provision may have been written in order to prevent the use of marijuana by college students who are using it without a doctor's recommendation, under the belief that youth are much more likely to use drugs recreationally. Statistics do affirm that the use of recreational marijuana is more common among youth than among other age brackets. However, this clause is unnecessary and will also penalize chronically ill people, who obtain a doctor's recommendation, from using their medicine. This law clearly does not change the penalties for marijuana possession by people without doctor's recommendations, so students who use marijuana recreationally will not be protected in any way under this law. It therefore makes very little sense to include this provision.

It is clear that very few college students will qualify for medical marijuana recommendations, but there will certainly be a few students who are afflicted by the ailments covered by this bill. If they receive a doctor's recommendation for medical marijuana, the only logical place for them to use it would be in their dorm room, where students would use any other medicine that their doctor directs them to use.

This bill would also not change the rule against smoking in dorm rooms, which is currently banned for fire safety reasons. However, there are many ways to use medical marijuana, including vaporization or preparing it in food. These methods would not run the risk of starting a fire, nor would they lead to smoke damage of the room.

This provision would also apply to University-owned housing that is not the typical dormitory. Using the University of Connecticut as an example, there are many different styles of housing that are all owned by the school. There are dorms designated for graduate students and non-traditional age undergraduates, there are apartment complexes owned by UConn, and there are even family-style apartment complexes that are designed for older students with spouses and children. It is unfair to ban qualified patients from using medical marijuana in their own homes just because they are owned by a college or university. People afflicted by the serious conditions listed under this bill are already tremendously inconvenienced by their conditions, and banning them from using their medicine in their own homes is an unreasonable infringement upon their rights.

As stated above, there will probably be very few recommendations given out to students under this law, as the included afflictions are generally more common among older individuals. It establishes a system that is very tightly regulated, but will still be practical and allow the chronically ill to access their medicine. Because of this, it is unnecessary to ban the use of medical marijuana in college- or university-owned residences.

Please remove the provision banning medical marijuana users from using their medicine in college- or university-owned residences, and then pass this bill. It is a very sensible policy, which enjoys 79% support by Connecticut voters, according to the Quinnipiac poll released on March 10, 2011. We can no longer allow fear mongering to prevent us from passing a policy that will help many chronically ill people.

Sincerely,
Sam Tracy
President – UConn Students for Sensible Drug Policy
UConnSSDP@gmail.com