



**Testimony on SB 1098 Prohibiting the Sale or Possession of Synthetic Cannabinoids  
Submitted on March 1, 2011  
To the Judiciary Committee  
By Calvina Fay, Executive Director, Save Our Society From Drugs**

Chairman Eric Coleman, Chairman Gerald Fox, Ranking Member John Kissel, Ranking Member John Hetherington and other distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

We respectfully request that this testimony, on behalf of Save Our Society From Drugs, a national drug policy organization with members in the state of Connecticut, be included in the hearing that is scheduled for March 14, 2011 pertaining to SB 1098.

Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) has over ten years of experience in monitoring and making policy recommendations on drug policy issues including those pertaining to marijuana legalization. S.O.S. understands that a comprehensive approach to promote sound drug policy includes education, prevention, abstinence-based treatment, scientific research, and community awareness. Our members include doctors, researchers, law enforcement officials, business leaders, lawyers, and parents, just to name a few.

We have analyzed this bill and believe that it is a proactive approach in protecting the future of Connecticut's youth. Please take this opportunity to review our analysis of SB 1098.

K2, Spice, and Liquid Gold is a mixture of plant products marketed and sold as incense but purchased and abused by youth because it is sprayed with chemicals known as JWH 018 and JWH-073, synthetic potent psychotropic compounds similar to cannabis.

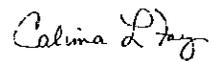
Selling for approximately \$30 a package, K2 has become so popular that retailers have a hard time keeping it on the shelves. Its popularity as a legal high has intrigued individuals across the nation, and its use among our nation's youth is growing at an alarming rate.

While the long-term effects of these drugs are relatively unknown, what we do know is frightening. Nationwide this year, poison control centers have received over 1,300 calls due to synthetic cannabinoids. These events involved victims as young as age 13 with reported symptoms including vomiting, unconsciousness, depressed respiration, and altered mental states. Additional information from reported users includes: increased heart rates, elevated blood pressure, hallucinations and, in some cases, seizures.

On March 1, 2011, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) exercised its emergency scheduling authority to control the chemicals used to manufacture these "legal-pot" products. This action makes possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the United States. Passing a state law, consistent with the DEA efforts, will make enforcement by local agencies easier.

I hope that you will consider these findings and that you will SUPPORT SB 1098. We would be happy to provide you with additional information or discuss this issue further with you, if you so desire.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvina Fay".

**Calvina Fay**  
**Executive Director**