

Judiciary Committee Hearing Monday 14th March 2011.

Nicholas Payne speaking against SB 952, SB953, SB1014, SB1098 but in favor of SB1015 HB6391, HB6554, HB6566 nwpayne@earthlink.net, 203 417 3978

Madame Chair, Mr Chairman and members of the Committee

I was here three weeks ago to speak in favor of the bill the register gun offenders. After out daughter Rebecca was murdered by mistake, it was not a great leap for me to consider that people who go and murder people they don't know is the hallmark of organized crime and in the current climate, drugs are almost certainly involved somewhere.

Last year I ran on the Green Party ticket for State Representative in the 67th District. I took the premise that much as we would like it to be otherwise, current drug policy does little to reduce the availability of drugs, but much to create violence and I don't want other parents to keep having to go through what we are going through. I proposed the legalization of marijuana and treating it like alcohol, Portuguese style dissuasion commissions for hard drug users and Swiss style provision of heroin as necessary to addicts in treatment. I am given to understand that the Portuguese Dissuasion Commissions are evoking some interest at DMHAS. Of the hundreds and hundreds of doorsteps I campaigned on, I must have had about a hundred "about times". Only two people argued for the status quo. One said he was a heroin dealer and I can see how what I proposed would play havoc with his business model and another was one of my daughter's contemporaries at High School and by repute at least, dealt drugs during his High School career. Of course you might be thinking that I might come over as a nice guy that people would decline to argue with, but I can tell you that that was not the case if I spoke about gun control.

Therefore I think SB952 is drug dealer heaven and taxpayer hell, because the smart dealers don't get caught anyway and are happy that the State is incarcerating their wannabe competition. Also I am not sure that kids buy their drugs anyway from scary drug dealers hanging around school yards but from kids they know in school. In truth it is not cost effective to jail such people anyway, the money is better spent on police patrols to keep moving them on and make it hard to do business. On no doorstep in New Milford did I hear people say drug dealers should be jailed, just that they should be driven out of the local parks.

SB1015, HB6554 and HB6566 however are steps in the right direction

I also support HB6391 since 30 years ago there were 3,500 prisoners and now there are around 18,000. Unfortunately this means that in certain neighborhoods there are enough men taken out of circulation to upset the natural balance. This destroys family cohesion and gives rise to likely a new generation of criminals in the next decade, that is perhaps sometime after the last taxpayer has left the State.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee thank you for your time and forbearance.