

In Support of HB 5389 Palliative Use of Marijuana

My name is Joey Adamaitis and I am another human being with a different perspective. I have grown up in a nice place my whole life I was somewhat, no very much sheltered from the world around me. I did not understand anything about politics and was completely uninterested. It wasn't until I was about 18 years old my perspective began to change radically.

I am now passionately devoted to things that I personally perceive to be injustices around me. I am going to demonstrate and perhaps try to convince you to just take a look at things from my perspective.

I started writing this speech back in February because I really want to get through to you, why you should support **HB 5389 Palliative Use of Marijuana**. I really wanted to make my point as clear and concise as possible. The drug laws in place right now are **WRONG**, you are hurting people by allowing these laws to stay in place. For you to make any plant illegal is wrong no matter what it does to our human consciousness, that is unjustifiable.

I believe in our countries core philosophy that we have the freedom of choice, we have the freedom to choose what religion we want to follow, what school we want to go to, what state we want to live in, who we want to vote for. But for some reason we don't have the right to choose which medicine we can put in our own body. If I have a headache I have the right to choose if I want to take Advil, Tylenol, or eat a cannabis brownie. Advil and Tylenol have killed thousands of people, and are perfectly acceptable ways of treating your ailments in our society.

On the other hand if you choose a plant that grows from the ground, does not cost billions of dollars to produce, hasn't killed anyone, does not cause brain damage, stomach lining damage, or any other type of organ damage; you can face prosecution. What happened to my freedom of choice?

I would now like to share a short story with you about coffee and the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. The Sultan of the time Murad IV would walk the town in disguise just to hear what the town's people would say about him and his government. The first day he stopped into a tavern where he saw people get drunk, laugh, and sing.

On the next day he walked into a coffee house and he witnessed people talking of politics, and the Ottoman Empire. The people blamed societies problems on the government and Murad himself. The Sultan was concerned with what he had just witnessed so he went back to his palace to think about what he should do about it. After some time of thinking he came to the decision that in order to stop the people from talking bad about the government he would ban the drinking of coffee.

Banned Plants & Fungi Throughout Human History:

7th Century Islam – Alcohol

11th & 12th Century Egypt – Cannabis

14th Century Islam – Recreational Use of Cannabis (Medicinal Use was permitted)

14th Century Meso & South America – Datura, Ololiuqui, Peyote, Psilocybin Mushrooms, among other sacred plants. (Claimed them to be works of the devil)

15th Century Europe – Coffee (Claimed to be the devils work)

15th – 18th Century Ethiopia – Coffee

18th Century China – Opium

19th Century World Wide – Any plant/fungi that alters your mind/body except alcohol, coffee, and tobacco.

So if you look throughout history you will see that people have always had a fear about drugs, and that fear is largely fantasy. If you look back at the list I have made you will see that in Europe and the America's (where our culture was born) there was an irrational fear that using these plants was the workings of the devil. This fear has transpired into today's drug war. No we don't think it is the workings of the devil but there is still this moral dilemma about using these types of plants, which is the wrong attitude to have.

I believe in the right to the pursuit of happiness, what exactly is the pursuit of happiness? Well I think it is going after your dreams, whatever that dream may be. One of my dreams is to get a bunch of my friends together and we all eat some cannabis brownies and go on a camping trip. The laws right now say that is wrong, that I am a criminal, that I deserve to be locked in a cage, now isn't that infringing on my right to the pursuit of my own happiness?

I also believe in our freedom of religion, and in my case I don't know of any organized religion that I feel I really belong to I studied a lot of world religions from Christianity to Jainism. I found that a lot of their philosophies rang true with my spirit so I never felt I could truly just choose one. Although I also felt that organizations themselves weren't for me. So what I practice is my own unorganized chaotic religion, and that is what I believe in. I believe spirituality is chaotic and can't be put on a regimented schedule like every Sunday at 10 am.

I also believe that there are certain "sacred" plants that can bring our consciousness to a higher plane of existence, and these plants have been regarded as sacred by many cultures throughout history (so this is not some belief I just made up myself, there is anecdotal evidence). One of the plants I use to bring myself to a higher state of awareness is cannabis, I look at it as a teacher plant it teaches me to be calm and peaceful in the face of adversity, it teaches me to acutely observe my surroundings and not just make snap judgments all the time. It also teaches me tolerance, acceptance, and understanding I feel this plant to be one of my sacraments'.

So if I have this belief of my own and I truly feel that this plant is a sacrament and needs to be held in high regard how can this government arrest me for possessing my own sacrament? I am not the only person on the planet with this belief either there are numerous Indian cultures and Rastafarian cultures that think the same thing.

This is what I think as far as medical marijuana regulation goes; I think any person should be able to use it. Whether that person has a headache, menstrual cramps, stomachache, sleeping problems, cancer, glaucoma, AIDS, or depression. Cannabis has been used to treat all of those conditions throughout human history and NO LAW is going to prevent me from using it as I see fit.

I also think you should take down the list of diseases, and just replace it with "a doctors recommendation". Meaning you go to a doctor and tell him what ails you and after running a few tests he confirms whatever ailment you claim to have and signs off on the paperwork. That way it is not restricted to just people with serious diseases, I believe that everyone can benefit from marijuana not just deathly sick people.

I am a self-proclaimed botanist and (not to be egotistical) have more knowledge on this subject than and experience than others who have testified. If you were to give me 3 hours with anyone of you I know I would change your mind in how you view cannabis and it's impact on our society. I thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns and desires today, I really hope that what I have said sinks in and persuades you to vote yes on **HB 5389 Palliative Use of Marijuana**.

I wish you all well in your endeavors and I thank you for being concerned about societies well being, because I am too.

Joey Adamaitis – Beacon Falls, CT