

# Pediatric Use of Medical Marijuana- Connecticut, Raised Bill 1064

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Representatives, Senators, Governor, Committee Members, and the Department of Consumer Protection, thank you for your time and attention to this matter. My name is Susan Wendy Meehan, mother to 4 Connecticut girls, 3 of whom are present today. I come to support Raised Bill 1064 with a few suggestions. My youngest daughter and I are currently medical marijuana refugees from Connecticut in the state of Maine. Cyndimae has a very difficult to control type of epilepsy called Dravet Syndrome, and she is *thriving* using medical marijuana to control nearly all of her seizures; however, we desperately miss our family and the support systems of our Connecticut home.

After 23 failed legal medications, by mid-2013, Cyndimae was mostly wheelchair bound, she rarely spoke, and she was barely able to eat. Using 4 FDA approved medications, she regularly had seizures lasting hours and experienced 1000s of smaller myoclonic seizures a day. In her short 12 years, she has been in full cardiac arrest from seizure rescue medications 4 times. Cyndimae no longer uses any FDA approved seizure rescue medications. When Cyndimae goes to the hospital and she has a seizure, there are two options: marijuana oil and phenobarbital. Phenobarbital does not work fast enough. In the past year, using marijuana oils, Cyndimae has had only one generalized seizure lasting longer than 90 seconds.

During my year and a half in Maine, I have actively helped shape the landscape of Maine's medical marijuana program as it is administered especially for children. Today, I ask you to consider my analyses of Raised Bill #1064 as it is proposed –

1. Please consider reciprocity to honor another state's paperwork, so a patient can visit their family in Connecticut without fear of prosecution or of going to the hospital in an emergency.
2. The two doctor requirement and specifically a "pediatrician" requirement are prohibitive. No parent is simply trying to get their child high on marijuana. These are very sick children with debilitating diseases such as epilepsy, Crohn's disease, cancer, and arthritis.
3. Maine allows us to grow Cyndimae's plants – so we have full control of organic versus chemical, pesticides, etc. Connecticut should strongly consider this. Dispensaries are not held to the standards our children require. Growing it puts full responsibility for my child in my hands. Most recreation users would not want most kids plants.