



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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***Testimony by Representative Pam Staneski  
Before the Judiciary Committee  
Senate Bill 1064  
March 13, 2015***

Good afternoon Chairmen Coleman and Tong, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to provide testimony on HB 1064, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA.

On Wednesday, March 11, I submitted testimony in support, through the Public Health Committee, of **HB 6862 AA Concerning a Study of Palliative Use of Marijuana for Children** and today I am submitting testimony on a bill before this committee that appears to be "putting the cart before the horse" and without any consideration of the instituting a study and that is **SB 1064 AA Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana**.

If we are truly going to consider allowing the palliative use of marijuana by children it is important that it be done with caution, however, it appears that the suggested amendment to the current Palliative Marijuana law sidesteps that caution and need for a study and goes directly to approving the use by children as it redefines the definition of *Qualifying patient* to include anyone who has written consent from a custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of the qualifying patient that indicates that the qualifying patient has permission from such parent, guardian or other person for the palliative use of marijuana and that such parent, guardian or other person shall serve as a primary caregiver for the qualifying patient and controls the acquisition and possession of marijuana for palliative use and any related paraphernalia on behalf of the qualifying patient.

It is clear that for some marijuana helps with pain relief, chemotherapy nausea, and can enhance appetite and in the past eight years the National Institute of Health has provided over \$14million for cannabinoid research; however, broadening the medicinal use of marijuana to include children without research on the advantageous effects as well as the harmful effects is reckless. I would suggest that we wait and look at current research being done by GW Pharmaceuticals with regard to development and testing of a cannabinoid product, Epidiolex, in the treatment of Dravet syndrome and results are expected later this year.

One does not have to go far to find anecdotal stories of parents who sought out medical marijuana (artisanal) high in the CBD component for their child and were surprised to find their children becoming *high*. This is why we need research and a study because *medicine* should be consistent among its batches.

We should be working to find a way to provide relief to children through an approved CBD drug, but we owe those who are suffering and their parents/guardians a safe product.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments, let's do it right and not put the *cart before the horse*.

Sincerely,

Rep. Pam Staneski