

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, shall study the palliative use of marijuana for children. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and general law concerning the results of such study.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Public Health to conduct a study concerning the palliative use of marijuana for children.

Stage 1: 0 to 10 months

- Neurons and connections growing.

Stage 2: birth to 6 years

- Development of voluntary movement, reasoning, perception, frontal lobes active in development of emotions, attachments, planning, working memory, and perception. A sense of self is developing and life experiences shape the emotional well-being.
- **By age six, the brain is 95% its adult weight and peak of energy consumption.**
- Caregivers need to provide a nurturing environment and daily individualized communication. Negative or harsh treatment may come with emotional consequences in the future.

Stage 3: 7 to 22 years

- The neural connections or 'grey' matter is still pruning, wiring of brain still in progress, the fatty tissues surrounding neurons or 'white' matter increase and assist with speeding up electrical impulses and stabilize connections. The prefrontal cortex is the last to mature and it involves the control of impulses and decision-making.
 - West would be able to increase the fatty tissue around her surrounding neurons or 'white' matter if she was given CBD and THC.

Just in case you missed it, Nature vs Nurture the argument has focused on whether children develop good or bad characters because they were born that way (nature) or because they were treated that way (nurture, or in the case of a bad character, the lack of it!). Well, after hundreds of thousands of debates over the centuries, professionals on both sides have finally reached a conclusion: we are who we are as a result of a relationship between nature and nurture. In essence, it's not a contest, but a dance.

Everyone comes into the world with a genetic makeup, or nature. It's theirs and theirs alone. Height, skin color, hair color, gender and other physical features are the obvious. Temperament, sexual preference, predisposition to alcoholism, to cancer, to response to medication, and to other illnesses are some of the not so obvious that are also a part of us. They're the gifts our parents give us at conception, and try as we may, there's not much you can do to not be who you are genetically determined to be. But the environment or nurture can influence these predispositions and how, or if, they'll play out.

Children's brains are a work in progress. How they develop is related to the experiences they have in their early years. How children's brains develop depends upon how the genes they're born with (nature) interact with the experiences they have (nurture).

We are obligated to help these children who are medication resistant. They deserve a chance for a bright future. The research has been done for centuries we just have to be comfortable living in the unknown for a bit to see what will help these beautiful children. We cannot wait for any more studies as children have been through enough. What we do know about CBD and THC is that if it works it works and if it doesn't it will NOT KILL THEM.

Please consider your actions today and make the right decision to allow are children to move beyond research and into implementation. Give them a chance to live and experience all the wonders that life has to offer.

Honorable Representatives, Senators, Connecticut citizens, thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter. My Name is Dr. Diane Tarricone and I am the mother of West Ann Tarricone who suffers from Epilepsy. She was diagnosed with West Syndrome in Oct of 2008 before her first birthday. We as a family have been fighting to find answers and appropriate treatment for 6 years with our Neurological Team at CCMC. West has been on an exhaustive list of drugs all FDA approved for 6 years. Each one of these prescribe meds has caused my daughter some sort of physiological event or crisis. These legalized drugs are slowly killing her body bit by bit. Each one has a wonderful side effect with the worst being DEATH. West has endured so much pain and suffering during these "drug trials", from lose of physical control, balance, speech, headaches, vision and so much more. The withdrawal process from these controlled medications is worse than any heroin or street drug I have seen in my career.

West is in horrible pain during her drug "weans" and her seizures increase from a 1000 plus a day to more complexed seizures and even moments of being frozen in time. All because we need to get her into some study or drug trial in order to "see" if CBD and THC is an option.

No child should have to suffer in the name of science nor should my daughter have to wait until 2016 for answers or statistical findings about a medication option that shows no adverse effects if she had to come off of it or even stop rapidly. CBD and THC oil is an organic option and has been available to the world for centuries. Wests prescribed medications are lab made and if stopped inappropriately could KILL HER.

CBD THC oil could change my daughter's mortality rate and improve her quality of life drastically. My daughter has a chance to improve developmentally because she is only seven years old she has an open window in her brain. Here are the stages of brain development: