

Raised Bill Number 5450 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA

Sean William Hearn's Testimony
Age 10

My name is Elizabeth Doyle. I am a long-time colleague of Kim Hearn, the mother of Sean W. Hearn. Sean is a 10 year old boy who has been fighting for his life since he was 5 months old. Sean is living with a very rare and debilitating form of childhood onset epilepsy called Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. Children with Lennox Gastaut Syndrome typically suffer with multi and intractable seizure types. Sean has over 50 seizures a day!

Developmentally, Sean is at 6-month level although he is 10 years old. He is completely dependent on his family for all of his care – today and indefinitely into the future. You see, Sean is confined to a wheelchair, he is unable to sit without someone holding him or stand without equipment. Sean is unable to speak. Sean is feed via a feeding tube and takes a combination of 5 seizure medications 3 times a day. Have I mentioned he is only 10 years old?

During the time I have known Sean's mother, she has sought the best available medical treatment to provide Sean some relief from the seizures. They have even tried alternative therapies, medications and dietary changes with no luck. The heavy pharmaceuticals produce an incredible number of side effects dulling the personality of her son. Could you imagine not hearing your own son laugh – it's been 8 years since Kim has been able to see her son express joy.

But there is hope available – real hope. The work that is being done with cannabis oil (which contains no more than 0.3% THC) in Colorado and across the country has given families like Kim's reason to hope for a brighter future for Sean that does not include 50 seizures a day. A chance to laugh.

Let this family and other families in Connecticut have that chance. I ask you to legalize cannabis oil for minors, so that this can be a treatment option here in Connecticut.

I implore you to pass this bill. Help mothers like Kim provide a better quality of life for her son.

Sincerely,

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