

Good []

I appreciate being here today to discuss a bill allowing pediatric use. I am not a parent who's child warrants the use of a natural flower to help their condition. I just want to say that I believe in the decision being between a parent and a DR. They are just trying to do what they believe is in the best interest of the child.

My name is Timothy Yankee. I suffer PTSD after a subdural hematoma in 2004. I originally became a registered patient in February of 2013 after seeing Dr. Philip Micalizzi.

Months prior to my dispensary opening, In July of 2014, I was arrested for the palliative use of cannabis. So far, I've had 17 court dates for a plant that I believed I would have immunity for. I'm facing well over 50 years for less than an ounce of usable flowers and a couple tablespoons of oil, well within our regulations.

The police removed everything in July of 2014. By the time I walked into the courtroom for the first time in October, 3 months later, I was destroyed. I had lost everything; My house and the start of my new career. I now had DCF in my life. All over a flower. A flower that I had not used prior to becoming a registered patient.

Now that the dispensaries opened the quality is unbelievable. The quality and cost of flowers far surpasses any black market product I know of. The problem is, some patients can't afford either the dispensary or the black market.

In 2012, you, our legislatures, agreed that constitutionally you can't limit the immunity for a flower only to residents who have the financial ability to engage in a for profit business. If a patient doesn't violate the State's Regulations and is solely acquiring medication to better their life; than please, within our States jurisdiction, don't subject them to arrest and prosecution for having a plant. I'm in no way asking that you change anything that is written in our current regulations, I'm asking you to consider removing the proposed limitations on acquisition from only the dispensary listed in sec. 21a-408d (b) of this bill. Please don't allow the lower income constituents immunity to become no more than a piece of plastic. We are discussing the flowers from a plant. No one deserves to be in jail for flowers, especially if those flowers affect that persons quality of life, or life in general.

I appreciate everyone for taking the time out of a short session to discuss issues such as pediatrics within this bill and I hope to be able to speak to you on important issues in the future.