

Hello and thank you for your time. I would also like to thank you for continuing to review change for registered patients in the Medical Marijuana program here in Connecticut. My name is Colin Souney and I live in Guilford Ct. I am diagnosed with PTSD and am a registered patient. I have always treated with cannabis since I first tried it in 1985. I was only 10 years old, and I knew then that this was the first time I had actually been comfortable, with the people around me and with myself. Getting relief was new to me and I definitely wanted more. I never turned to other drugs although I had considered it when cannabis became difficult to acquire. For me Cannabis was never a gateway drug it was just the relief I needed.

Id like to take a moment to point out a few facts. The national Epilepsy Foundation has publicly and openly announced that not only has it been proven that Cannabis oil can treat Epilepsy they support its use in pediatrics to treat the condition and encourage more testing and research.(1) Also The National Cancer Institute openly states that "Cannabis has been shown to kill cancer cells in the laboratory" (2) and Experts around the Globe are beginning to agree.

While many adults do suffer from these conditions, children are often not afforded the joy of adulthood due to sickness or death related to Epilepsy, cancer or the other possible conditions Cannabis may help to treat. End of life treatment and the quality of life our loved ones experience during this time is important. Patients should be offered any and all available options at the disposal of the prescribing physician and Cannabis should be one of those available treatments.

Here in the state of Connecticut we have some of the most prestigious schools, and students in the Nation including Yale and UConn. The medical industry is a very large industry boasting \$3 trillion of the nations economy (3). With the FDA stating "the FDA supports those in the medical research community who intend to research marijuana." (6) It is apparent that we support research, studies and more work be done helping to better understand exactly what this plant offers.

Every year over 15,500 children and 1 in 4 dogs will be diagnosed with cancer. (6)(7) Children and pets should not be excluded from the care and treatment with cannabis. Cancer survival rates have gone up greatly over the past years from 49% in the 1070's to up to 68% today ( 8) Im certain this can be directly linked to the growing acceptance of Cannabis as a treatment. Still, quality of life at the end of life must always be considered for the ones we love, nobody wants to endure watching the ones we love suffer. It is irresponsible to continue to prevent the ones we love from access to the Product they are comfortable with.

Here in Connecticut we as patients are unable to grow or process our own Medicine. We are forced to purchase products from dispensaries we are registered at and also we must choose from what that dispensary has available for products(9). Add to this the high pricing

(10) and lack of previewing of the medication and there begins to build an argument for home grow. It is a common opinion of Drs such as Surgeon General Candidate

and CNN's Dr Sanjay Gupta that "unlike other drugs that may work well as single compounds, synthesized in a lab, Cannabis may offer its most profound benefit as a whole plant, if we let the entourage effect flower." (4) with more and more information about cannabis becoming public knowledge, it becomes more clear that expecting commercial growers to caretake individual patients specific strain as well as offer that product for a reasonable price is a heavy expectation. I am a patient and often experience disabilities. There are currently over 8500 patients registered in the states program and I can only assume a lot of them are also disabled and limited in their abilities to work! The unfortunate truth about this medicine is that patients pay out of pocket for it. Not one single insurance company covers this medicine and often times patients find it very difficult to afford medicine. As neighboring states begin to pass patient grow rights and even legalization I think we should look to also allowing patients to grow their own specific medication.

Finally please, one last note, laws have recently passed allowing children over the age of 11 to be prescribed Oxycontin and other synthetic opiates to treat pain and other symptoms. Synthetic opiates are extremely addictive and believed to be a gateway to heroin abuse. With the state and nation at the heels of a large heroin epidemic, why is there even debate whether or not children or pets should have access to cannabis? This is an incredible medicine and we should be ashamed that we have kept it out of the reach of those who need it for as long as we have. Cancer, pain, addiction and the other countless afflictions don't discriminate, neither should we!

Thank you very much for your time.

(1) <http://www.epilepsy.com/article/2014/2/epilepsy-foundation-calls-increased-medical-marijuana-access-and-research>

(2) <http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/cam/patient/cannabis-pdq>

(3) <http://www.forbes.com/sites/danmunro/2012/01/19/u-s-healthcare-hits-3-trillion/#337090fd2f67>

(4) <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/11/health/gupta-marijuana-entourage/>

(5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entourage\\_effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entourage_effect)

(6) <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm421163.htm>

(7) <http://curesearch.org/Childhood-Cancer-Statistics>

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(10) <http://www.bluepointwellnessct.com/current-inventory/>