

Honorable Representatives and Senators of the Committee I would like to thank you for raising another bill that would give children access to medical marijuana.

This Bill will change the quality of life for so many children.

My name is Joy O'Meara. My son Jamison is seven years old and has intractable epilepsy. This means his seizures fail to come under control with treatment. However Jamison currently takes five different seizure meds four times a day through his feeding tube.

My son has not had seizure control for more than a day in five years.

My son misses most of the school year because of this illness.

I take care of my son and work nights when our nurses come.

My son is severely delayed due to his seizure disorder.

My son Jamison was born healthy and reached all milestones for the first eighteen months.

After his first seizure he immediately regressed to an infant, losing his speech, unable to feed himself, appeared deaf and no longer seemed to recognize his family. Within two weeks he was having several types of seizures daily.

Over the past five years Jamison has been to the hospital hundreds of times...at one point we were there every other week. I've lost count on

the amount of 911 calls I've made but never will forget the times I held his lifeless body and began CPR.

When Jamison was five I had to make the decision for a feeding tube placement, at that point he was constantly seizing and not eating or drinking. This is called "failure to thrive"

This past September through January my son weakened more than I have ever seen. He spent weeks not getting up at all and I would just sit by his side and check his vitals & take him to the hospital when I didn't know what else to do. I was told so many times I'm such an expert at his condition it's probably better to just keep him home where he's more comfortable. I knew those things but I also felt so helpless like what if I was missing something.

When you watch your child suffer day after day it is the most heart wrenching feeling and sometimes I wonder how long his little body will keep fighting. I've never given up because his strength keeps going his resilience is admirable. I'm the MOM to my own hero.

Hope is an amazing feeling.

My research into cannabis began two years ago. Every single day mostly at night when I cannot sleep I look into more stories.

Thanks to social media I'm able to connect with other families across the country and hear their amazing stories.

Children receiving hospice care are thriving.

Children that lost their speech or never spoke because of their seizures are speaking again.

I follow so many stories and I talk to the families the results for some seem like an absolute miracle.

Some families after figuring out the correct dosage begin counting the days of being seizure free and then begin coming off the pharmaceuticals. Then they start to see huge cognitive strides. I cannot express to you enough the absolute fear so many of our families deal with.

I need to mention Reagan Deaso she also lives in Trumbull this little one is currently having several seizures a day that require rescue medication her family is going through absolute crisis right now. I would put her before my son at this moment because time is of the essence for her. Her doctors all support cannabis and they are just waiting for the legalization.

Although I was told by a state representative to buy this on the streets I think it's important to mention that this would be an oil form put through my child's feeding tube and we want to be followed and documented by our Doctors. We are not law breaking individuals. I'm just a Mom that doesn't want to lose my little boy.

I want my son's story documented and followed by his doctors.

The children in Connecticut deserve the chance to try this treatment.

I know that even if this isn't a cure for my son it will save the life of a childand to me that makes this fight worthwhile for all of us.

Reagan, Ella, West, and my son Jamison are just a few of the many children living in our state that have suffered enough.

Future generations should not have to suffer when a life changing possibly life-saving treatment is available to children in other states.

Please think of this being your child.

I plea with all of you to consider passing Bill 5450.

We just want our children to have a chance.

Thank you

Joy O'Meara