

Good morning Committee Members, Legislators, and Department of Consumer Protection representatives. Thank you for considering Raised Bill #5540. My name is Susan Meehan, and this is my daughter, Cyndimae, medical refugee from Connecticut visiting from our new home in Maine. There is a ten year old Texan, a medical refugee like Cyndimae. This eloquent young lady Alexis Bortell, spoke to thousands in her home state last week threatening to one day become governor to change the laws if that is what it takes. She said, "I heard my dad say to my mom, 'What if we can't stop the next seizure?'" Alexis goes on to say about her first experience with medical marijuana, "It was a brown oil in a glass bottle that smelled like a skunk, but it didn't make me feel funny like the other seizure medicines and also unlike the other medicines my doctors gave me, the cannabis worked. After nearly daily seizures in Texas, today, I am 346 days seizure free taking THC high cannabis in Colorado. I remember talking to our Texas legislator who said he had to talk to his clergy because he had some moral concerns. I remember thinking to myself, 'Why doesn't he talk to my doctor? Why does he have to talk to my priest?'"

"The law doesn't make any sense and it's time we change it. I only hope that if a kid can figure this out, that our legislators and governor are smart enough to figure it out," said Alexis.

Today, an 8 week old baby in Colorado breaths without assistance for the first time in her life in a Colorado hospital finally without seizures. Treated with cannabis instead of drugged to comatose with traditional seizure medications, she is thriving. I often wonder what it would have been like if we could have treated Cyndimae with cannabis when she first came home to Connecticut, when she was three years old, the star of birth-to-three with no developmental delays. What if we could have saved her brain from the thousands of daily seizures she suffered AN HOUR or the four to ten "grand mal" or generalized tonic clonic seizures she suffered daily? We will never know what Cyndimae would have been like had we been able to stop her seizures with cannabis in 2005. US patent number 6630507, dated October 7, 2003, Cannabis as Neuroprotectant and Antioxidant. This US patent held by the National Institute for Mental Health a division of the United State's Department of Health and Human Services, states, "No signs of toxicity or serious side effects have been observed following chronic administration of cannabidiol to healthy volunteers (Cunha et al., Pharmacology 21:175-185, 1980), even in large acute doses of 700 mg/day (Consroe et al., Pharmacol. Biochem. Behav. 40:701-708, 1991)" Cannabis is NOT toxic. One cannot say this about any other seizure medication that exists in the world today. Even one overdose of Tylenol can kill a person. Cannabis cannot kill anyone. The components in cannabis are powerful antioxidants and powerful neuroprotectants. Both of these characteristics make them powerful, life-saving medicines for seizures, Crohns, Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, Downs' Syndrome, cancer – any disease that thrives on oxidation and the resulting neurological damage.

Tragically, Cyndimae may never move back to our Connecticut homeland. After this legislature, in its final hour closed its session last year without voting on the pediatric cannabis bill, and as I cried and watched on Connecticut Public Television, we had to make some serious decisions. We stopped all payments on our home in Oakdale, Connecticut, a home in which we could not legally live, and pooled all of our family resources to form a conservatorship to buy a safe and stable home for Cyndimae in Maine. From 2013 to 2015, Cyndimae went through the unsettling trauma of refugee status moving 5 times torn between Connecticut and Maine. This was devastating to her health, development and happiness. She started asking when told we were going home, "Which home?" We lived for 3 months in a campground in a cold Maine spring. It was not safe for

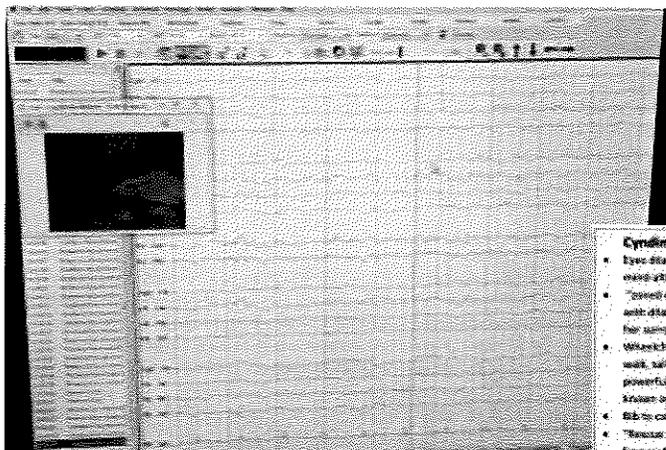
Susan W Meehan, [goldenwolf143@aol.com](mailto:goldenwolf143@aol.com), <http://www.examiner.com/article/watch-cannabis-knock-out-this-child-s-seizure-seconds>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Cyndimae/>

Cyndimae, for our marriage, nor for our 3 older children. Connecticut legislators have a responsibility to make it safe for what citizens are left – these other families who hide at home due to seizures, whose children turn blue as their mom wonders, “Is the seizure that will kill her?”, whose children starve to death due to chemo, whose children are dying from head trauma, chrohns, or cancers that cannabis can help cure. Do it now. Save these children’s lives. Save these children the trauma of running from the homes they know, of fleeing Connecticut to become the next Alexis or the next Cyndimae. Relocating a special needs child with extraordinary medical needs, finding new nursing services, creating a new educational plan in an unfamiliar school system, struggling week to week to afford basics like food and heat because you are desperately waiting on your legislators to make it right – it is HARD. Do not do this to another family. On February 29<sup>th</sup>, the first foreclosure hearing was heard in New London County to take possession of our Connecticut home.

Using cannabis since 2013, Cyndimae no longer has seizures. Though she still has one or two seizures a week, for the first time in her life, her baseline eeg is NORMAL even in sleep! Last year, Cyndimae and I, and several other families fought in the Maine State House to pass legislation to ensure her right to attend school. LD 557 passed by 2 votes in a veto override allowing our children to take their cannabis medications at school, as they just like any other American child, have the right to a free and public education, where other medications with far more serious side effects are administered daily. Take notes Connecticut. After two years out of school, Cyndimae now attends Cony High School in Augusta Maine. We are not ashamed. We will not hide. We will not run. We have only just begun to fight for our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in all 50 states. Also, it would be nice to visit home legally someday – reciprocity please! Respect

your 49 sister states and their paperwork. Please help us save Cyndimae’s friend West. Cyndimae and I thank you for hearing this very important Raised Bill 5540.

← This is what normal sleep looks like! January 2016



**Cyndimae Pre-Cannabis Oil**

- Eyes dilated & unreactive from sedating, mood-altering anti-epileptic drug.
- “Drooled out” across chest of a child with dilated pupils, usually unaware of her surroundings.
- Wakened necessary. After unable to walk, talk, play or even eat, from powerful legal “anti-epileptic drug.” Known as AEDs.
- Bibby catch constant dress.
- “Rescue Meds” (Diazepam and Valium) frequently caused respiratory and cardiac arrest.
- Frequent “Diazepam” use (sometimes several times a day) at the cost of \$500-hour (\$2400) doses.
- Seizure helmet required whenever out of wheelchair. Frequent falls & bruises.

**OCT. 2013** **NOV. 2013**

**MAY 2012**

“Starting Compressions”. These 3 words changed her lives. Cyndimae was barely breathing two minutes after the 4<sup>th</sup> Suboxone arrest in her 13 years. This time, caused by intra-nasal Valium, in November 2014, after a respiratory arrest post valium, doctors recommended extreme caution using Valium (Diazepam) for Cyndimae.



**JAN. 2014** **AUG. 2014**

**DEC. 2013** **JUNE 2014**

**Cyndimae Can with her Cannabis Oil**

- She is AWAKE and ALERT even minutes after her CANNABIS 911 rescue medicine, a very concentrated THC-based MARIJUANA extract.
- She has discovered her tongue & smiling, never before.
- Eyes wide opened – clear and blue to dance with her life-sized laughter and brilliant smile.
- She can pump her own tummy!
- She can make milk, vomit and pee!
- Cyndimae now is helped for normal “bedtime” activities like reading and tea making.
- February 2015, Cannabis is Cyndimae’s only AED. During illness, only low doses of phorbol/benzyl are sometimes used.