

H.B. 5314

Good Afternoon,

My name is Norman Plude, I live in Seymour CT and I'm a medical patient here in Connecticut. I'm here to talk about how expensive medication for the cannabis patient is in Connecticut is. I've been a patient since the beginning of the program and as I stated last year I chose to grow my cannabis since the beginning of the program. I utilize raw cannabis daily and it is not available at the dispensary. In June my home was raided and all my medical cannabis was confiscated and all the plants were destroyed. H.B. 5389 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA that gives Connecticut patients the right to possess Marijuana defined by the definition contained in 21a-240 #29 c.g.s. That definition states "Marijuana" means all parts of any plant, or species of the genus cannabis or any infra specific taxon thereof, whether growing or not;" I now face the possibility of 34 years behind bars, I'm 53. Why are we raiding and arresting patients? I enjoyed growing my medicine; it was safe, organic and custom grown for my specific ailment and it hurt no one. I planted a new plant every 7 to 10 days for a total of 12 plants. As the oldest matured and finally harvested a new one was planted in its place. I always had the medicine I needed when I needed it. The cost of medication for a patient can be well over \$1,000 a month out of pocket and may not be available on arrival to the dispensary. Many patients make multiple trips a week to the dispensary simply because they don't have the cash for their medication. Others don't have transportation or simply can't drive themselves. Connecticut patients need the choice and the option to grow their own medication. Some will grow out of need, some out of necessity and some simply because they want to control their own life using a safe alternative that works for them. As a "former" patient grower, I would recommend a 12 plant grow of plants in various states of growth. I asked that the state of Connecticut have compassion for the medical patients who would simply like to grow their own medication without fear of arrest. We're Simply Good People who use cannabis and would like a safe and economical choice for medication. It's time for Connecticut to do the right thing.

Thank you,

Norman Plude