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From: Christopher Brown <onelastfable@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:42 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Cannabis legalization

I Fully support the Legalization of Cannabis. Not only do I personally feel like it would be an amazing step forward for the nation but a huge step forward for CT.

Cannabis has helped so many people have normal lives and it treats so many different ailments and yet it's a schedule 1 substance while Alcohol and Tobacco which has killed millions of people has been okay for public use. Alcohol and Tobacco meet the requirements for a schedule 1 substance more than the Cannabis flower.

People should be able to grow their own plants in their home or backyard with out fear of persecution. There's a huge stigma regarding Cannabis that can only be changed with Legalization and Education.

There are many people, including my self who are scared to even mention that they are in favor of Legalization of Cannabis, the fear of losing their jobs, their Homes, their kids or even being sent to Prison. That's not right!

We lock up kids for possession and treat them like hardened Criminals when we need to understand that Cannabis isn't heroin, or any other hardened Drug. It's a GOOD flower with not a lot of draw backs and more often than not we lock up the "experts" of this field and when legalization happens, we tell them that they aren't allowed to participate in cultivation and sale of Cannabis when they're the ones who have grown it and helped pioneer the industry but that's what got them arrested.

Cannabis is an exit strategy to Opioids, not a gateway drug. I know people who would rather smoke a bowl than drink Alcohol or even take pain medication. Who have zero desire to even consume hard drugs.

We have tons of studies, Laws and regulations that we can implement from states like California, Colorado, Massachusetts, etc.

We should learn from them.

Cannabis isn't cheap, at the dispensary people have to reach deep into their pockets just to afford an 8th. We need to bare that in mind when we think about taking control from the Black market because let's be honest, who wants to meet some sketchy dude in a Alley for pot and have him push pills and other hard drugs on you. No one, everyone wants a safe place to purchase their Cannabis and consume it safely at a reasonable price. I'm actually in favor of lounges too because if we have bars that cater to Alcohol, why shouldn't we have a safe place for people to consume their Cannabis, especially if we have Tourists constantly coming in and out of our state and especially for folks who live in subsidized housing. We Don't want people to lose their home because they want to Unwind and relax.

The Revenue and Job Creation is there.

The War on Cannabis has failed. Most Connecticut Residents want this to happen.

You would be surprised as to how many functioning Cannabis-users there are, that you have more than likely talked to on a daily basis and wouldn't have realized they have just consumed it before speaking to you. People can still perform their jobs and live their life while under the influence of Cannabis

No one should lose their job, their family or their life over Cannabis. It's wrong that we continue to lock away GOOD people over a harmless plant. That we lock away our experts who dedicated the time and effort into growing their plants and learning about them and then deny them the right to participate. We shouldn't treat Cannabis users like their junkies. They're not. They are just normal, everyday good people who just want to live their life as normal and possible as they can.

A lot of our research into Cannabis actually comes from Israel, they have one of the world's largest Cannabis research Facilities.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2017-04-11/israel-is-a-global-leader-in-marijuana-research>

It would also be a huge source of money for our state that needs it.

Cannabis has been known to help people with Alzheimer's , ADHD, depression, anxiety, cancer, chronic illnesses ,pain, fibromyalgia ,dementia and the list goes on.

it's been around for over 3,000 years and has killed no one.

Please be on the right side of History and do what's right for our state.

Legalization of CANNABIS is the path forward.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony

- Christopher J. Brown