

Written Testimony **Senate Bill 487 - S. B. No. 487**, An Act Concerning the Legalization, Taxation and Regulation of the Retail Sale and Recreational Use of Marijuana and Concerning the Production and Regulation of Hemp.

Good morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Todd DeWitt, and I am the Founder of the Boomhut Brands, an operations management company focused on compliance, regulations and growth in the cannabis industry. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 487, An Act Concerning the Legalization, Taxation and Regulation of the Retail Sale and Recreational Use of Marijuana and Concerning the Production and Regulation of Hemp, a proposal that would legalize marijuana in our state. FINALLY!

The negative effects of cannabis prohibition has proven disastrous at best.

Some equate it to the Black Plague, because only then did we see the number of unsuspecting deaths equate to what we see with the Opioid Epidemic today. In fact, at its current rate of increase, it will surpass the death rate of the Black Plague in the near future. In communities where cannabis is legal, we have seen noticeable declines in opioid abuse and deaths related to opioids.

Disproportionate arrest rates. Disproportionate costs of enforcement.
Disproportionate effects when compared to similar classes of controlled substances.

It is irrational to continue blindly on the same path. It is also unintelligible to allow neighboring states to continue to grow population, economies and appeal because we have fallen into social stagnation. We need to understand that coffee, alcohol, candy and cannabis have a positive mental health effect when properly consumed. Many psychologists agree that this prohibition has in fact done the opposite of its intentions.

Medical benefits are clear. To deny there are any is ignorant, biased and sad. From cancer pain relief to anxiety prevention, the benefits are so wide ranging one should question modern medicine's approach to patient care. Insurance policy should not govern compassionate care.

We cannot continue with a Harry Anslinger view of social policy. It should not be based on racism, special interests or archaic science. We have a chance, along with our neighbors in Massachusetts, to lead by example. Lead with intelligent policy.

Just Lead!

Or others will.

Regards,
Todd DeWitt
Founder Boomhut Brands
Old Greenwich, CT 06870