

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I OPPOSE this bill.

There are many reasons to do so, but I am most concerned with INCREASED DRUGGED DRIVING.

1. Drugged driving and motor vehicle fatalities have increased in states that have legalized recreational marijuana. According to a 2014 report by the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), about 50% of fatal crashes nationally involved drivers whose blood tests were positive for THC (WTSC, 2016). In states where marijuana is legalized, collision claims have also increased: the number of drivers in Colorado intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal traffic crashes increased 88% from 2013–2015 and marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% between the four-year averages before and after legalization (Highway Loss Data Institute, 2017; Migoya, 2017; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Colorado Department of Transportation, 2017).
2. According to AAA, Washington experienced a doubling in drugged-driving fatalities in the years following legalization (Johnson, 2016).
3. The percentage of marijuana offenses among those driving under the influence of drugs (DUIDs) have also risen in Colorado, with 76% of statewide DUIDs involving marijuana (CSP, 2017). When alcohol is added, the percentage number is 17%, a 25% increase since 2012.
4. In Oregon, 50% of all drivers assessed by DREs in 2015 tested positive for THC. Toxicology reports show that the rate of drivers testing positive for THC has increased at a consistent rate, resulting in an increase in THC-related impaired driving (OLCC, 2016). Unfortunately, Alaska does not have reliable DUID data available.
5. While many factors contribute to pedestrian fatalities, it turns out that states that legalized marijuana for medical and/or recreational use saw a 16.4 percent surge in such deaths in the first six months of 2017 compared to the first six months of 2016, while nonlegal states saw a drop of 5.8 percent in pedestrian fatalities over the same time (Boudette, 2018).

Think of the \$\$\$\$ these accidents, injuries and deaths will cost the state of CT and its citizens!!!

Please OPPOSE this bill.

Sincerely,  
Karen Fischer  
8 Starr St.  
New London, CT. 06320

