

**Seritalla, Freda**

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**From:** r.leblond1 <r.leblond1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 12:02 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Raised S.B.No.487

**Categories:** Green Category

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of the cannabis plant and 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.

Failure to pass legalization of cannabis for adults in Connecticut is to ignore the majority opinion and to miss out on the benefits of a sensible and lucrative legal industry that citizens have wanted to see in our state for quite a while. Adults should be able to make their own educated choices about possessing and consuming cannabis in any form. The time to act and set up our own system is now. We are already lagging behind some of our neighbors and starting July 2018 many of our residents will inevitably be spending their money in Massachusetts recreational dispensaries.

Legal drugs such as alcohol and prescription medications result in far greater and more severe issues when compared to cannabis. The increase of casualties from opioid overdose in Connecticut rose to over 1000 people in 2017. This is a grim reality that we need to face dynamically and legal cannabis might be one tool in the toolbox. Recreational legalization has been linked to a short term drop in overdose deaths in Colorado. (<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304059>)

Enacting this legislation would also open new doors for real research into the physical and public health effects of a plant that is already ubiquitous in your communities but remains barred from large scale scientific study because of outdated laws.

Regards,

Roger LeBlond  
Concerned Citizen from New Britain

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