

I want to take this time to express some of the needs and desires of 71% of Connecticut residents; to legalize the recreational use, purchase and cultivation of cannabis.

Allowing legalization of cannabis for people 21 years of age or older gives our state an amazing opportunity to make Connecticut healthy again. Healthy again: by reducing the financial deficit; eliminating life-altering, non-victim 'drug' laws; and potentially saving lives. States that have legalized cannabis have seen a 25% decrease in opiate usage, minimized law enforcement resources, and a significant increase in tax revenue that can be directly allocated to benefiting the community.

Last year, I had the unique opportunity to help with the first research hemp grow in Connecticut history at the University of Connecticut. This experience taught me a lot about the ties between hemp, agriculture and health. We strived to produce clean, organic medicine that can be used to help heal people. And in order to do that, we needed to nurture the plants from day one, feeding them organic, healthy foods. Throughout this experience, I realized that I put so much care into making these plants healthy, but had not nurtured my own body the same way. As a medical cannabis patient, I realized that we should be allowed to heal ourselves by cultivating our own plants.

It is very important that we allow Connecticut residents to grow their own cannabis. By allowing this, we create an amazing opportunity for personal and economic growth. People who choose to grow will need to get their cannabis tested by licensed facilities, they will need growing supplies (soil, lights, gardening equipment), as well as skilled electricians, and HVAC specialists. State residents are allowed to brew their own beer and grow their own food. Cannabis

should be no different. If patients would like to sell some of the medicine they grow, they should have to get their medicine tested, bring their results and sample to a licensed dispensary, and if all inspections are passed and dispensary is interested in purchasing and selling the growers product, they can do so.

I am a 26 year-old who has lost eight friends to opiate overdoses. I have struggled with pharmaceutical addiction myself. I have been to jail, rehab, and tried committing suicide. As of May 13th, 2009, I have been clean of all pharmaceutical drugs. Since then, I am happier and healthier than I've ever been. This would not be possible if it wasn't for cannabis. Cannabis saved my life and I will not stop informing and educating people of the amazing benefits that cannabis brings to my life. Let's make Connecticut healthy again by legalizing cannabis and allowing grow rights!

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Thank you,

Cody Roberts

Connecticut NORML

Seymour, Connecticut