ISSUE: Damage to Children and Teens

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Margaret Lancaster and I am from New London. I oppose SB 1085, that would legalize marijuana for "recreation".

I am concerned about this bill because:

The marijuana industry is very dismissive of harm to youth because they say marijuana use is illegal for those under 21. The alcohol and tobacco industries have been equally dismissive, giving little effort to prevent youth from using either. I dismiss their brush-off.

Here is a partial list of potential risks of marijuana's adverse effects on children, teens, and the unborn exposed while the mother is pregnant. These risks are well documented in hundreds of scientific articles:

Addiction **Damage to memory, cognition, learning, motivation, IQ** **Psychosis**

Lower graduation rates **Impaired attention** **Driving impairment** **Slower reaction times**

(World Health, Substance Abuse Journal, Lancet Psychiatry, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Addiction, etc.)

Use during pregnancy may result in:

Heart defects in babies **Stillbirth** **Impaired cognitive function and attention**

Increased risks of addiction **Decreased academic achievement**

(B. Madras, Harvard Medical School, 2016)

Our Youth Risk Behavior Surveys in CT show that marijuana use equaled and in some towns has exceeded that of alcohol use. Youth use in CO increased **20%** in the two years after legalization. It has started to decrease a little but is still **35%** greater than the national average. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015/16)

For the sake of our children, teens and babies, please vote **NO** on SB 1085.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lancaster

New London