

February 11th 2019
Christina E. Capitan- Coventry, CT
Public Health Committee Testimony in Support of HB #5442

Good afternoon members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for taking time to hear my testimony today in support of

HB#5442 AN ACT ADDING CHRONIC PAIN AS A DEBILITATING CONDITION FOR THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA BY A QUALIFYING PATIENT.

I am honestly supportive of allowing a persons' own specialist or provider to qualify their patient for the program for any condition they see fit for their patient. In other states we see approved condition lists and wording to allow those with like conditions to qualify.

I would also like to voice my gratitude on the record for the introduction of this bill to Representative David Mitchel Representative Josh Elliot. Thank You!

As a Medical Cannabis Patient Advocate in our state, I would like to clarify the reasons why we have come to you, the Connecticut Legislature for help with adding these serious conditions to the program as well as why we need your help to make many other changes within program. This program as stated in the title of the regulation as its written is a palliative use program, for severe chronic and end of life conditions. This means time is not only of the essence, days can make the difference between matter of life or death for many.

In the past seven years, since the inception of the Connecticut Medical Marijuana Program we have seen a lack of urgency concerning the addition of conditions that may qualify a person to legally obtain and use medical cannabis as well as in other areas of the program.

The patients and advocates have been coming forward about the lack of state level compassion for seriously ill patients and their families, the lack transparency of agency actions that may directly impact a patient's health, and the obvious absence of understanding about cannabis as a whole and the apathy about the needs of the 30,400 Connecticut medical cannabis patients in our state.

Connecticut's Medical program is something that was desperately needed and has provided relief and better quality of life to so many of your constituents, and it needs improvement to open access to more veterans' children and economically disadvantaged individuals. I hope to have an opportunity before this committee and others to address these issues.

Respectfully,

Christina Eva Capitan

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