

My name is Norman Plude and I'm from Seymour Connecticut, I'm here today in favor of HB 5442. In 1993 I broke my back at L1 - L2. I was put on many pharmaceuticals through the years only to find immediate help from cannabis. My form of cannabis administration is utilizing raw, uncooked, unheated cannabis. The main ingredients in that form are THCa and CBDA. Those two compounds are precursors to THC and CBD and will not get you high, they are non-psychoactive. Utilizing raw cannabis will give you 10 times the amount of CBD, the main pain fighting component in cannabis. Although this form of cannabis therapy is not available in Connecticut without being able to grow your own plants, I have traveled out-of-state to legal states such as Massachusetts Colorado and Oregon to acquire it legally. In 2018 I was diagnosed with CRPS, constant regional pain syndrome, also known as the suicide disease because of the constant pain with no relief that people afflicted with it often suffer. It took 16 years before I was diagnosed. Nobody that suffers from chronic pain should have to deal with pain when there is obviously hope for those who suffer. My diagnosis explained a lot. Until I was diagnosed I was labeled as a chronic pain sufferer. Call it what you will but constant pain can drive people to do whatever it takes to alleviate their pain. Sometimes that choice leads to opiates and opiate abuse. There's a safer alternative that works better than any opiate that I have ever tried. I support this bill because I personally know if it were not for cannabis it's quite possible I would not be here today. Please support HB 5442.

thank you.  
Norman Plude  
Seymour, CT