



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

April 29, 2019

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, Senator Witkos, Representative Davis, and members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 1138**, An Act Concerning Community Restoration Funds.

I want to thank Sen. Fonfara and Rep. Rojas for crafting a detailed and carefully constructed bill that would direct the revenue generated from adult-use marijuana taxes to areas most in need of those funds, including Hartford. This forward-thinking measure deserves the support of the full committee.

SB 1138's community development corporations would invest in communities with high rates of distress, based on factors such as poverty, violence, and unemployment. It would provide resources needed to help lift families out of poverty, including low- and no-cost early education, social impact bonds for elementary and middle schools that are the most underfunded, and — depending on how much funding is left over per city — other resources to promote home ownership, adult literacy, and create pipelines to jobs.

Connecticut's goal should be legalization that repairs the damage done by decades of racially disproportionate drug enforcement. I urge the committee to advance SB 1138, which would put equity at the center of marijuana legalization. It is long past time for us to replace the failed and destructive "war on drugs" with an equitable, thoughtful system of regulation. SB 1138 is an important piece of that puzzle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", written in a cursive style.

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

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