

My name is Andrew Davidson, and I am a resident of Westport. I strongly support revitalizing our most at-risk communities. This is why I oppose SB 1138.

The bill ignores the costs and risks to the very individuals that it seeks to help.

A few statistics that illustrate this perspective:

Economic Opportunity

- **Impacted communities will be least able to “cash-in” on marijuana retailing:** According to the National Cannabis Industry Association, launching a dispensary can require anywhere from \$250- to \$750,000, putting sales out of reach for all but the wealthiest entrepreneurs and corporations.
- **Marijuana will become more accessible to those who can least afford it:** Average prices in Washington state plummeted nearly 80% from 2014 to 2017. Prices continue to decrease precipitously.
- **Marijuana endangers workers:** Postal workers who screened positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% higher absenteeism.

Health

- About 1 in 10 marijuana users become addicts. For those who start using younger than 18, the incidence is 1 in 6. I know...my 18 year old son is in recovery from marijuana addiction. In communities where the burden of treatment falls disproportionately on state programs, **increased treatment demand will undermine more productive uses of state funds.**
- **The National Institute on Drug Abuse found that marijuana is associated with low achievement** and causes memory and learning problems, aggression, and poor family relationships.
- The CT State Medical Society, The American Medical Association, the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians all oppose legalizing recreational marijuana.

Crime

- **Colorado’s organized crime cases** involving marijuana nearly quadrupled from 2012 to 2017
- University of Colorado researchers “found that **neighborhoods with dispensaries saw increased crime rates between 26 and 1,452 percent**”

Fiscal Responsibility

- **SB1138 creates bloated bureaucracy** with new tax regimes and community reinvestment vehicles that require additional oversight and administration.
- With 100% of tax proceeds to be deposited into Trust Funds, **how will this entirely new bureaucracy be funded?** If California is any example, it won’t come from cannabis:

California came up more than \$100 million short of its expected tax revenue last year.

- If Connecticut were in better fiscal condition, what place would marijuana hold in funding community restoration?

I urge this committee and others to consider the burdens that you are placing on the citizens of Connecticut and the risk to the very communities that you seek to help.

With SB 1138, only the state bureaucracy wins.