

My name is Tiffany Barnard Davidson. I live in Westport, CT.

I strongly support revitalizing our most at-risk communities. SB 1138 ignores the public health and societal costs to the very individuals that this bill seeks to help.

This is why I oppose SB 1138.

As I testified on March 22, 2019 before the General Law and Judiciary Committees, my eyes were opened to cannabis use disorder on December 9, 2018, when my then 17-year-old son admitted that he was addicted to 97% THC oil.

As a result of my ignorance about the evolution of “recreational” marijuana, from low-level THC flower to high potency concentrates and edibles, I launched Moms Against Marijuana Addiction (MAMA) to educate other parents. We are now a diverse cohort of 15 men and women, the majority of whom have children in recovery or active addiction.

It may sound silly, but it’s worth noting that you will not hear pro-legalization testimony today - or any day - from parents whose children smoke cannabis regularly. Of that I can assure you.

Rather, you will hear from lobbyists who are making a killing camouflaging a wolf in sheep’s clothing. My sincere hope for them and for all of you in the CT legislature is that addiction never knocks on your door - ever.

Here’s my conundrum. I don’t know how to testify against SB 1138, because it’s not about the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Once I understood the crux of this fight, the follow-up questions I had after meeting with legislators in Westport and Norwalk were answered. Why hadn’t the bill come before the Public Health Committee? Why didn’t legislators understand that K2 and Spice are not cannabis and wouldn’t be regulated under the bill? Why did the senate majority leader who introduced a bill on this issue tell us this wasn’t a priority issue for him?

I sit before you today to say that the fight to NORMALIZE a psychoactive drug that will adversely affect all communities of every color is not about cannabis. It’s about white guilt and reparations to black and brown communities.

I sit before you as a white woman who has been a CT resident for most of my life and was raised on food stamps to say that I am ashamed that the ONLY solution our well-heeled and well-educated Governor can come up with to help our underserved communities is to legalize a drug that will bring more harm to those very communities. I do not pretend to walk in the shoes of anyone other than myself, but I do know that the vast majority of liquor stores in this state are not found along the Gold Coast. And I do

know that the vast majority of recreational marijuana dispensaries will not be located in the Gold Coast either.

In my town of Westport, there's an ordinance pending to ban the sale of recreational marijuana at the medical marijuana dispensary that will open in the fall.

Oh, and by the way, that dispensary and the West Haven-based 41,000 sq foot manufacturing facility was acquired for 80 million dollars by the Chicago-based heir to the Jim Beam fortune. Who happens to be white.

Thank you.