

Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I write in opposition to SB 1138. This bill has been framed with a social justice purpose sending some tax from legalizing marijuana to poorer communities. This sounds good but fails to consider this: The COSTS of legalizing are enormous and far outweigh any gains from tax revenue.

- Sending funds to specified communities does NOT change policing patterns in these communities. In CO the 2017 marijuana arrest rate for African Americans was nearly double that of Caucasian Americans. The **social justice costs** remain significantly higher for African Americans. Sending a few dollars to certain places will not reduce this cost.
- And more money will not erase the **treatment costs** of legalization. One mother told me her son's medical bills for addiction to marijuana (the only drug he used) resulting in psychosis is already \$50,000 out of pocket costs for her and she has insurance! CT will end up covering millions and millions of dollars in medical costs alone. A marijuana tax will not cover any of these costs.
- The **employment costs** to businesses in CT will be significantly greater. In states that have legalized marijuana 1 in 4 employees show up high to work. States that have legalized report increased work absenteeism and workplace accidents. Who will be able to work at EB (General Dynamics in New London) and stay employed? The company does initial and random drug tests of hair. Marijuana residue remains in hair for 6 months. In CO the number of young adults who are addicted to marijuana DOUBLED after legalization. They are not employable or if employed, cannot hold a job.
- There are **huge, increased opportunity costs** for young people with legalization. I already know from my volunteer work in New London that our youth have a significant problem with marijuana already. I know personally the young people who use marijuana, who failed out of school, who dropped out of sports, ended up in treatment, in jail, and are not working. Sending some marijuana revenue to New London will not cover any of these opportunity costs.
- **Insurance costs** will rise due to increased driving fatalities, non-fatal injuries and property damage. Revenue from marijuana sales will not cover any of these costs.

Revenue from legalizing marijuana will NOT cover these costs.

Please vote NO on SB 1138.

Sincerely,

Karen Fischer

New London