

April 29, 2019

Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Cathy Hazlett, I am from Fairfield and I strongly oppose SB1138 that would legalize marijuana.

As a committee that addresses money matters, I am deeply concerned that you are putting the fabricated notion of making lots of money before the health of our youth and the health of our state's citizenry. As Colorado can attest, less than one percent of its state revenue comes from marijuana sales. I have attached a financial report that was conducted by SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) for the state of CT. It shows that even if the maximum projected revenue was attained, it would still fall short of the costs incurred.

While I fully realize that our state is in horrible debt and needs to cut spending and raise revenue, legalizing marijuana is not the way to do it. Legalizing marijuana will only increase youth's access to it, and put everyone at risk with the likelihood of increased motor vehicle crashes due to impaired driving (there is no breath-a-lizer for marijuana).

Please carefully review the cost/revenue report. You will see there are significantly more costs to legalizing marijuana than what is ever discussed. It's not enough for CT to legalize marijuana because other states have done it or because you think it is inevitable – it's not. CT should do what's right for CT and not be pressured into making a huge social policy mistake, just because others are doing it. Do you realize how childish that sounds???

Why not increase the licensing fees to sell tobacco and alcohol products? Increase the prices of e-cigarettes and all tobacco products, as well as alcohol. Stiffen the financial penalties for those who sell these products to minors. Why not focus on raising revenue to incentivize people to live healthier lives rather than encouraging addiction to drugs.

I strongly oppose SB 1138 and I hope that you will vote NO on SB 1138. The costs to our state, and to our people are too great. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Catherine T. Hazlett, MPH, TTS

Fairfield, CT