

**Written Testimony
Connecticut Finance Committee Hearing
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This testimony is based on my own experience as a mother, tax-paying Citizen and Veteran of the United States Army.

The legalization of non-medical marijuana would be disastrous to many neighborhoods throughout the state of Connecticut. Our country is currently, traumatized and in a state of crisis because of the current opioid abuse. Legalizing marijuana will only exacerbate many of the social ills that we see in society. I do believe that it will create health cost increases dramatically, especially amongst our youth and elderly. Those who suffer from upper respiratory illnesses will be subject to increased pollutants in the air.

Our taxpayers rely on our legislators to make the best decisions to create the just and thriving, healthy society that we all need. Many are saying that the legalization of non-medical marijuana will generate tax revenues to improve the status of our educational institutions as well as improve infrastructure. Others say that marijuana legalization will allow those who suffer from the heroin addiction to transition from the use of heroin to marijuana. The medicinal properties used to help patients are acceptable. I do not believe that recreational/ non-medical legalization will solve the many issues that we currently suffer from. Areas that are poor and low-income currently suffer from tobacco and alcohol abuse. Allowing recreational non-medical for only impact these areas in disproportionate numbers. This will give away for the black market to thrive based on the projected rising increases of cost for used all of this drug. I do not believe that our youth should have readily access to products that are marketed to today's children. The increased THC levels can cause vomiting and psychosis and in some cases permanent brain damage to our undeveloped brains of our young children. Moving forward with the legalization of marijuana will not improve the quality of life in America, but will only send our country down and already slippery slope. I hope today you will reconsider the legalization of non medical marijuana and stop this train before it leaves the station.