

Monday, April 29, 2019

Subject: Support for Raised Bill No. 1138, An Act Concerning Community Restoration Funds

My name is Jane and I'm a member of Yale Student for Sensible Drug Policy. I am writing in favor of the Raised Bill Number 1138. While we firmly support the legalization of recreational cannabis for many reasons, we believe that legalization must be done in a just fashion that begins to repair the damages caused by the war on drugs. This bill does exactly so by prioritizing reinvestment in public education, housing, and employment in the communities most affected by the war on drugs. Specifically, the proposed Community Development Corporations would provide a wide array of educational programs, services, and assistance across community impact zones. The establishment of the Community Development Credit Unions would offer further financial assistance for those of whom living in economically distressed neighborhoods. The Early Literary and Social Impact Funding would provide students reading below proficiency with the help they need and deserve, especially those living in community impact zones.

Once again, we believe not only in the legalization of recreational cannabis but also the active pursuit of reparations to communities damaged by the war on drugs. Given such, we are in strong support of Bill 1138 and its emphasis on Community Restoration Funds.

Thank you very much.