OPPOSE SENATE BILL 16: ACT REGARDING LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

My name is Bob Beaumont. I am from Wallingford.

I oppose SB 16 because I think that legalizing marijuana carries a lot of unknowns and will create a number of unforeseen outcomes.

Marijuana has been said to be less harmful than alcohol. While both alter one’s state of mind, most of the time when a person sobers up after a hangover or without one, their brain is generally intact and they aren’t behaving in a paranoid fashion. However, marijuana is rewiring and altering a person’s brain and overall mental performance.

Many who promote marijuana have a casual attitude toward any potential negative impacts and act like the old Lesley Gore tune, “Sunshine & Lollipops”. When the reality is, marijuana has been shown to cause problems. One, is a spike in paranoia.

Now paranoia is a dangerous state of mind. People experiencing paranoia with or without drugs have at a minimum thrown things, beaten people, committed murder, and in geopolitical politics committed genocide upon their people think Mao, Stalin, Mugabe and the Ayatollah. Paranoia and the crimes that come from that state of mind can happen anywhere, towns, suburbs and cities. In some cases paranoia has been a big triggering point behind gangs, gang rivalries, drive by shootings, armed robberies. These things are terrible. Despite the dangers that paranoia brings out, these examples are swept aside by the politicians who either live in the neighborhoods or represent those areas. A lot of innocent people suffer at the hands of a paranoid person and a willfully blind politician engaging in selective outrage.

I read an article that referenced a 2007 study from the Medical Journal of Australia on 88 defendants who committed homicide while in a paranoid, psychotic state of mind. It showed that those defendants believed they were in danger from their victims. Nearly 2/3’s of those 88 had misused marijuana more than alcohol or amphetamines combined. A 2012 paper from the Journal of Interpersonal Violence looked at a federal survey of more than 9000 adolescents. The survey found that marijuana use was associated with a doubling of domestic violence.

While alcohol certainly has contributed to an altered state of mind, it is at least studied and is a proven risk factor in domestic abuse, assaults and murder. But far less work has been done to study marijuana in the same way as the advocates have brushed aside and stigmatized anyone who raises these concerns. It makes me wonder what are the real motivations here when those who promote marijuana are fit to be tied about the idea of studying it further? It’s like with the vaccine bill, if you have to insert insulating language from lawsuits against the legislature, doctors, and pharmaceuticals, that make me question the veracity of the bill. Same applies with the “benefits” of marijuana.

Given this, legalizing marijuana and amplifying paranoia is irresponsible and unacceptable. This is a powder keg and a Pandora’s box. This bill should be voted down and not allowed to enable more dysfunction and mayhem. This is an election year. Our eyes are on you!