To the Judiciary Committee –

I support the Governor’s bill, SB-16, An Act Concerning the Adult Use of Cannabis.

As a Medical Marijuana (MMJ) patient licensed by Connecticut since the initiation of its program in 2012, my support is perhaps unique.

The quality of the raw flower provided by our four grow facilities has ranged from average to good, but none of it has been great. All the experts on the subject of cannabis cultivation advise that the best cannabis is grown organically in soil and under sunlight, as nature intended. I can agree because I speak from experience. Before 2012, my source of cannabis was an MMJ grower licensed in Rhode Island. He grows all of his cannabis under sunlight in a hothouse and all organically in soil.

Our four grow labs, however, are stymied by two handicaps, one state-mandated and one self-imposed. All of Connecticut’s state-licensed cannabis is presently grown indoors under artificial lighting, as required by state law. But by choice, all four labs grow with chemical fertilizers, and most if not all grow hydroponically. None of their cannabis is grown organically.

A peripheral issue raised by S.B.16 is documented in Section 36, mandating that the Department of Consumer Protection recommend:

“Whether to allow consumers or qualifying patients under chapter 420f of the general statutes, who are twenty-one years of age and older, to cultivate cannabis for personal use.”

Indoor cultivation by licensed MMJ patients has long been legal in our neighboring states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in fact since the initiation of both of their medical programs in 2012 and 2006. I have personally interviewed patients in both states, and I can attest that they all have been satisfied with this DIY option. Their state administrators have reported few, if any, complications. After 14 years of home grows in Rhode Island, there has been only one instance to my knowledge of a patient exceeding the maximum allotment.

I use no pharmaceutical drugs, nor do I consume alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, meat, white flour, or white sugar. Most food that I eat is organically grown. All of the produce that I eat is organically grown. Yet none of the cannabis that I consume is organically grown. I hope someday to remedy that.
If Connecticut is hesitant to legalize home cultivation for all of its citizens, then I suggest that, as a pilot program, it first legalize it for its MMJ patients. After a trial period, Connecticut can then evaluate the feasibility of legalizing home cultivation for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

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