S.B. No. 16 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADULT USE OF CANNABIS.

The following written testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association regarding SB 16, “An act concerning the adult use of cannabis.”

The Connecticut Police Chief’s Association (CPCA) opposes S.B. No. 16 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADULT USE OF CANNABIS. The CPCA represents over 7000 law enforcement officers in Connecticut across more than 100 departments.

Our opposition to the bill revolves around the absence of qualified road side testing of motorists suspected to be under the influence of cannabinoids. While the presence of a police officer trained in Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving enforcement (ARIDE) or the presence of a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) may potentially assist in the evaluation of a motorist, there is presently no legal device in which to test such operators. The DRE evaluation mentioned in the bill is a process which occurs after the arrest is made.

The dedicated law enforcement officers that fill our ranks throughout Connecticut are committed and determined to keep our roadways as safe as they possibly can. This bill, if passed, will diminish the safety of our roadways, while at the same time law enforcement is still dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis and the impact that has had on roadway and pedestrian safety.

In 2019, law enforcement officers in Connecticut made 8465 arrests for drunk and drugged driving. This number will most definitely increase if S.B. 16 passes and we
believe that you will agree that the legalization of recreational marijuana is not something that we need to introduce to our state.