2/29/2020

RE: SB16 An act concerning the adult use of cannabis

Dear members of the Judiciary committee,

My name is Marc Cournoyer and I am opposed to SB 16 An act concerning the adult use of cannabis the way the bill is currently written.

I am a 53-year-old self-employed contractor, husband, father, and a medical cannabis advocate since 2012.

We all know CT needs the tax revenue, and this bill sb16, tolls, or sports betting will happen, my main concern is for the existing 39,536 MM patients.

Becoming a patient, myself (after the terrible suicide of my son) has opened my eyes to the existing problems we have with this program and how legalizing cannabis for all adults will be detrimental to the existing patients.

The medical program in the last few years has seen exceptional growth, with patients nearing 40,000, the State has added a few more dispensaries. If the State is going to legalize cannabis for recreational use, I recommend the dispensaries that sell to non-medical patients be in separate buildings altogether. Patients shouldn’t have to wait in long lines with rec users.

The medical dispensaries cannot handle the influx of legal sales (please visit a few) Also only having four growers’ patients are worried the grows will not be able to supply enough medical cannabis and recreational cannabis at the same time. (40,000 patients)

Currently the grows are not consistent with their products, with more dispensaries added this year there seems to always be shortages of product, dispensaries orders that were promised come short of product. What’s going to happen when this goes legal for all?

This is MEDICINE for registered patients, we need consistency and constant supply without interruptions. Our medicine should be treated like any other, with guarantees that it will be there. WE NEED CONSISTANCY.

I have a solution to this problem, please go to SB16 line 2091

Please insert a amendment (to start immediately) to add a pilot program to study home grow for any qualified CT MMP, This program would allow a CT MMP to grow up to six mature plants (weight of stored dried material would have to be agreed on)

The state could charge a $100 application fee and have a questioner by the CT dept of agriculture on what strains are grown, conditions, yield, problems, etc. As a patient the state has all of the patients info already in the system, by applying to grow we would give you the right to inspect the grow at any time, if the patient was to be found in violation of any rules they would be faced with losing their medical card for a year /an or arrest.

This program would bring relief to a lot of patient that already have anxiety daily, worrying that the meds they need daily won’t be available.
This program would not compromise the existing medical program, yet help it grow, not every patient has the knowledge, physical ability, or property to do this so it would be a very small percentage of patients, this amendment shows that the Lawmakers hear our concerns and is willing to work together to make legalization happen seamlessly and make sure our existing patients won't be harmed.

In closing I would like to thank the Judiciary committee for allowing me the chance to provide my comments, if you have any questions regarding the MMP program from a patient's point of view please contact me.

Marc Cournoyer
Canton CT