February 27, 2020

TO: Judiciary Committee, Connecticut General Assembly
FROM: William W. Dickinson Jr., Mayor, Town of Wallingford
RE: Testimony – SB 16 – Adult Use of Cannabis

Dear Co-Chairmen Senator Winfield and Rep. Stafstrom and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Connecticut citizens are affected with the disastrous public health consequences of the failure to test opioids for long term use. Given that there is significant cause for concern (as shown below) about the health safety of using marijuana, we are best advised to schedule scientific testing of cannabis prior to encouraging widespread use of it. The very basic tenets of public health policies and doctrines require such testing. Connecticut families deserve to know if marijuana is safe to use. Placed on the scales of justice, the weight and value of public health concerns far exceeds the weight and value of revenue collection.

Evidence for the need for testing:

- One in ten marijuana users will become addicted
- One in six for people under the age of 18 will become addicted
  National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and related conditions (NESARC)
- Marijuana has harmful effects to the brain which can be permanent
  2014 National Academy of Science
- The compounds in marijuana can affect the circulatory system and may increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes
  Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Children and babies are especially susceptible to harmful effects to the developing brain
  2014 National Academy of Science
- 2500 lung illnesses and 54 deaths primarily caused by vaping marijuana
  U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention

It is time to assure our citizens that our highest duty is to protect the public’s health.

Sincerely,

William W. Dickinson
Mayor