Dear Chairs Stafstrom and Winfield, ranking members Remimbas and Kasser, vice chairs Blumenthal and Kasser, and to the rest of the esteemed members of the Judiciary committee,

I arrived at the age of 14 in NY suburbs, and I almost right away witnessed the devastation in the Bronx, from failed and discriminatory policies, particularly causing hardship on the African American (3 times more arrests) and Hispanic communities.

I even heard former president of Mexico Vincente Fox talk against the war on drugs in Nantucket a couple of years ago.

Today in Hartford, and thanks to our Governor and also like minded legislators, we are talking about legalization for up to 1.5 Oz and over the age of 21. Some of the changes this bill would bring are, no more arrests for non-criminal offenses, erasure of past cannabis convictions, reinvestments in communities stigmatized by this war on drugs, language so that individuals from these communities can participate in an expedited and prioritized way in the Cannabis industry.

I support the inclusion of education to maintain proper public health through good policies, in the bill’s language.

I strongly urge for legislative language that would support Labor Peace Agreements to protect the health and safety of workers.

I support good, equitable and sensible Marijuana legalization. Please support Senate Bill 16!

Rep Michel.

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