Hello CT Legislature,

My name is Cole von Richthofen and I am represented by Representative Leslee Hill and Senator Kevin Witkos in Canton, CT. I was unable to attend today’s public hearing because I am a full-time law student at UConn and also work part-time. I wanted to voice my utmost support for the legalization of recreational cannabis for the following reasons:

Firstly, this is what a majority of the people want. A June 2019 survey conducted by Sacred Heart University found a majority of CT residents polled support legalization, and a more recent January 2020 study conducted by the D.C.-based firm GQR found 65% in favor. While both of these polls are certainly subject to polling errors, I believe support may be even higher.

Secondly, this state is in dire need of additional revenue streams. There is immeasurable amount of revenue going to our neighbors to the north, who have been opening new dispensaries with every passing month.

Thirdly, the health concern crowd is a vocal minority, and some are hypocritical at that. Not unlike the small yet vocal percentage of climate change deniers, there are those in the legislature who are either legitimately concerned, or claim to be concerned, about the physical and mental health effects of cannabis. The fact of the matter is, no veritable scientific majority would contend that cannabis is worse than the effects of alcohol on the body. If our lawmakers are so concerned with the effects of marijuana, then I implore you to prohibit the sale of alcohol, a proven addictive, debilitating drug with no proven medical benefits.

Thank you for your time and best regards,
Cole von Richthofen