



Testimony of Fine Fettle Dispensary

H.B. No. 5313 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS STATUTES.

General Law Public Hearing, February 2, 2021

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Witkos Representative Rutigliano and Esteemed Members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in regards to H.B. No. 5313 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS STATUTES. My name is Benjamin Zachs and I am the Chief Operating Officer of Fine Fettle Dispensary.

Fine Fettle Dispensary is a locally owned and operated dispensary organization with locations in Newington and Willimantic.. Our team is built of Connecticut residents and alumni of schools, Universities, and Pharmacy Schools across our great state. We are a group who believes in being both diverse and local. All three of our dispensary managers are minorities and our staff is local to the communities in which we are located with diverse backgrounds and the ability to reach our patients in their native languages.

With regards to House Bill 5313, we fully support these updates to the medical marijuana program and believe there are additional changes that can be made to further enhance the program. We very much support the lowering of fees to patients. Making this plant and extracted medication more affordable, and therefore more accessible, to more patients is good for the health and well-being of Connecticut's patients.

Today, we have the "one dispensary rule." We understand its initial importance and intent, especially as the CT medical marijuana program was in its infancy. This restriction helped ensure that patients did not exceed their required limitations. We do appreciate that this bill would allow patients to go to multiple dispensaries if owned by the same group. While, as written, it does benefit our organization, it does not go far enough for our patients.

The one dispensary rule is an inconvenience for medical marijuana patients and is no longer necessary. The industry has changed, and technology is now available that can track patients' quantity limits no matter where they shop. Our current program, the CT prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) has this capability today. There are also many other programs that could track the purchases and enforce the quantity limitations while allowing patients to purchase the marijuana medications at any CT dispensary. Allowing patients to shop at any



dispensary will promote the protection of patients and the accessibility of medication that patients depend on. We also believe the implementation of allowing patients to purchase products from any dispensary and the ability to successfully track quantity could serve as a model of tracking quantity limitations in the adult use market. In conjunction with a bill on Marijuana Program Reciprocity, will allow for more and better access with safer oversight for Connecticut's medical marijuana program and patients of other states travelling in and through our great state.

We do worry about oversight of additional patients and the lack of revenue into the program. We believe that it is imperative DCP receives funding and staffing to properly oversee this program. We believe that adding a small tax for out of state patients' medical marijuana purchases would offset the revenue losses from the fees within this bill.

In sum, we support HB5313 but hope the committee will address some of these other issues.

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