

✿ Marijuana is safer than alcohol and tobacco. ✿

Contact your legislators now for **comprehensive** legalization in 2016.

**Let them know that
"The Vermont Way"
requires home growing.**

✿ *Calling for common sense.* ✿

Support Homegrow Rights

Correct a cannabis skills gap.

A cannabis legalization bill must be a Vermont workers bill. First-to-legalize jurisdictions like Colorado and Washington have oversaturated cannabis labor markets. Vermont cultivators will entertain this established skilled workforce before hiring inexperienced Vermont residents. Homegrowing allows responsible Vermonters to responsibly develop growing skills in the safety of their homes.

Support craft industry.

Craft breweries are born out of recipes developed as homebrew. Budweiser came to dominate the U.S. commercial alcohol market following alcohol prohibition's repeal because law enforcers targeted the small brewer whose recipes had their origin as homebrew, inadvertently clearing the way for uncontested "big capital" interests to dominate the commercial alcohol market in America for decades. Homebrewing was legalized at the federal level in 1978, and it took Vermont's homebrewers 30 years after homebrewing legalization to develop the skills and recipes to establish a domestic artisan industry around craft brewing.

Amend the bill now or never.

Correcting the shortcomings found in S.241 would be difficult in the future given the apparent lack of success over the course of 12 years by medical cannabis advocates to reform Act 135 which passed into law in 2004. Act 135 is considered to be one of the more restrictive state medical cannabis legalization laws in the country. Act 135 is our best barometer yet for determining our political ability to effect change in the future.

Homegrowing is responsible.

Homebrew has not created a significant black market for illicit beer. Homebrew is not a significant factor in alcohol abuse, drunk driving, and teen use. Cottage Food laws have not caused an explosion in black market cookie sales. Allowing for homegrown cannabis for personal use by responsible adults is a reasonable

Dear Representative:

Allowing home growing and personal transfer of cannabis between adults, within possession limits, is the best way to accomplish a reduction in Vermonters buying drugs trafficked into our state illegally.

Legalization of cannabis is NOT all about the tax revenue. It's also about reducing the black market for all drugs as much as possible, for a safer Vermont. We don't want to see adults getting arrested or fined for a medicinal and recreational substance which is actually far less harmful than alcohol or tobacco. Nor do we want people to have to buy cannabis from dealers who might also sell opioids and other harder, drugs. We don't think legalization should wait until 2018.

Let's do cannabis legalization right. Let's do it now. Let's do it 'The Vermont Way' that we were promised. That includes home growing, to prevent the rampant commercialization of the cannabis market. Please add home growing back into S.241 and pass the bill.

Sincerely, Kyle Harrington (name)
Burlington (town)

Vermonters take the moral side of history by opposing unjust law. A leading example is the Habeus Corpus Law of 1850 which was passed by the Vermont Legislature to command state law enforcement agents and judges to assist captured fugitive slaves. In response to Vermont's Habeus Corpus Law, then U.S. President Millard Fillmore threatened Vermont with a military occupation for nullifying the Fugitive Slave Act.

Cannabis prohibition is another example of an unjust law. While federal code criminalizes the voluntary use, cultivation, and exchange of cannabis among informed and consenting adults, jurisdictions such as Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and the District of Columbia, have taken independent measures apart from the U.S. Congress to decriminalize and/or re-legalize the consumption, cultivation, and trade of cannabis.

Vermonters who support cannabis legalization do not condone drug use or abuse. We do oppose the dangerous practice of criminalizing consensual behavior by responsible adults. Casual use does not equal abuse. Legalization supporters believe criminalization has become a greater danger to public health and safety than responsible cannabis use, cultivation and trade. Over 25,000,000 Americans have been arrested for cannabis since 1970.

The State of Vermont can uphold its constitutional duty to promote the general welfare through public health and safety policy, by defining reasonable regulations around personal cannabis use, cultivation, and commerce, through defining product safety standards and product labeling requirements to facilitate informed choice. Cannabis prohibition is not a reasonable form of regulation, but the abdication of state regulatory authority, whereby public courts become closed to consumers and producers for adjudicating civil and business disputes, arguably in violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and whereby state regulatory authorities cease defining the product safety standards and product labeling requirements that protect and empower Vermonters.

The collateral damage caused by cannabis prohibition is a greater danger to public health and safety than personal cannabis use, cultivation, and responsible trade. Millions of otherwise law abiding, productive, and presumably peaceable human beings having their property confiscated under criminal and civil asset forfeiture law, who are humiliated in the media, rendered unemployable, separated from their families to serve out prison sentences alongside dangerous convicts, and whose prospects for future prosperity are harmed after being labeled criminals for life over a cannabis related arrest and conviction. Over 80,000 Vermont residents surveyed by the RAND Corporation admit