

Hello Ms. Lowell and Vermont State Representatives,

I write today in support of the legalization of cannabis in Vermont, but rise against the current version of S-241. I had worked with Senator White and Benning among others to craft the original draft of S-241 out of the Government Operations committee.

This well thought out "White-Benning" S-241 would have replace criminal penalties with civil penalties. It would have funded the program by selling tax stamps rather than costing the State money to start up. It would have allowed Vermont's citizens to grow for personal use and to share without sale, lowering the cost of Judiciary to government.

It would have allowed for all the current growers to come out of the woods and get a license to grow or sell cannabis. It would have kept the money generated in the local economy as it is now.

This current "Sears-Schumlin" S-241 does not legalize cannabis for all Vermonters.

This legislation does not meet the governors 5 points as it will not eliminate the cannabis grown by many Vermont residents.

This current draft bill will take away Vermont medical patient's rights to make Cannabis Oils and give the rights to companies for profit.

It does create incentive for arrest and prosecution of those who are not given a license. It does include draconian penalties for growing and selling without one of the limited licenses. It does create a monopoly and take money from the small growers who would like to be able to continue to work in a legal market.

I see this as bad legislation. Senator Sears has changed the intent of the bill.

I would ask you to amend the bill to include Home Grow and to open licenses. Should that not be possible, I will ask that you not pass this dangerous legislation. This can and will lead to a social tragedy for many as the growing season has just begun.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Janik

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Registered Voter

Registered Medical cannabis patient

Patient Advocate

Member of Vermont Home Grown