

Please read this information carefully and then get back to me. You are a lawyer by trade. I can tell you this that I am not for the bill S 241. It delegates to much control to law enforcement agencies and sends money to more law enforcement agencies. It turns medical cannabis patients into criminals. It is a bill that transfers power and wealth over to those who are able to put up the cost for a license to cultivation of cannabis sativa L. We are talking about a plant that everyone is cable of growing. Here in Vermont this bill allows for certain entities to grow cannabis legally without being locked up for doing so. Then turns around and sets out enforcement of criminal laws for those who are growing illegally but wish not to be turned into criminals and lose property and other things such as disruption of family because one might go to jail. Vermont criminal justice system is already clogged up and running a muck. We need not to regulate cannabis but change the laws that we already have..Vermont does not need all these rules and regulations on cannabis it needs to repeal cannabis laws and regulations and allow for personal cultivation with out criminal penalties but impose civil penalties instead. This bill is borrowing money to even began plus puts eleven new state troopers into effect this year that is eleven incomes that are getting paid for by current taxes before even a single license is sold or a plant is grown and sold. No money goes to research and development in understanding cannabis instead money goes to provide enforcement and more programs to say that it is harmful or to educate harm of other substances. Well we don't teach about the harms of alcohol but that is legal and readily available and accepted amongst many. Unless you have the disease of Alcoholism and then we don't have enough education and treatment facilities in Vermont for current substance abuse issues and the effects that come with them. This bill is dreadful..As a family who needs cannabis oil for medicinal purposes we would be turned into criminals under the bill because of making extractions illegal. Currently there is no laws saying a medical marijuana patient can't make cannabis oil. I am not talking about Butane Hash oil extractions which are dangerous. There are several different ways to make cannabis oil extractions for medical purposes. Next the plant counts for those on the Vermont marijuana registry program is low and the whole program is greatly flawed. . I like to say that after 12 years Vermont's medical marijuana program has not advanced to meet the needs of patients. I think it would be wise to address the issues with the medical Marijuana program first before legalization happens. This is a huge reasons why the push for home grows because many people are greatly disappointed in the current status of the medical marijuana program. It is flawed greatly. If you want to see a good medical cannabis program look no further than Maine. There program has been around since 1999 and it is flourishing and Maine has some of the best laws on there books in regards to safety and health and protection and rights for caregivers and growers and patients. None of these things are here in Vermont. The medical marijuana program was placed in the department of public safety which is a law enforcement agency because they thought it would look better to the federal government when it was established. The federal government currently does not really worry about medical cannabis as long as states are following the guidelines. This now the time to remove it from the department of public safety and place it in the vermont department of public health and human services Division which is where many medical marijuana programs are in the majority of states across the country.

We as a family in Vermont don't want to have to move because Vermont legislators are trying to figure out how to do legalization. Let's figure out how to meet the needs of the medical cannabis program here first. That's one of the BIGGEST issue that many of the people who are asking for home grows to be allowed and to not turn medical patients into criminals. This bill was crafted by a majority of medical cannabis patients but when Senator Sears and Matt Simon of Marijuana Policy project and Shumlin got their hands on it. It has been greatly changed and only sets up to meet the needs of a special interest groups and not regular people who desire to be addressed with the legal boundaries of a bill that would have worked without having to spend money. I do believe that we need some regulations for cannabis legalization but these regulations and excise tax are absurd and a slap in the face to the common folk of Vermont. I personally have good ideas and I have done enough research on cannabis and follow what other states do. Currently The District of Columbia has legalization and they allow for home grows for recreational activities. I can say this they even allow more plants than what are allowed for home grows for medical purposes in Vermont. Now that should speak volumes to you that the Capital of the United States of America allows the people in the District of Columbia to grow cannabis for personal use then why can't the citizens of Vermont be allowed to as well? ? The next issue is where are all these education programs going to come from who are these people who going to educate our children about substance abuse and prevention when we already had a Dare program that did not work. Vermont has only four treatment facilities and a shortage of workers throughout Vermont what are these people just going to magically appear? Well they are not here now we have a huge opiate problem in Vermont. A handful of counties that are using the hub system and drug courts. I can express my experience as a resident of Bennington County, Vermont. Bennington County does not have a treatment facility, does not have a hub system and it certainly does not have a rapid intervention drug court as well. What it does have is 12 armed robberies in six months, some of the largest drug bust in Vermont's history. It has a heroin epidemic because we are a border community that is close to NY and Western Massachusetts. It has the Senator that rewrote the bill S 241 because of these things and it has the chief of the police association as the chief of the Bennington police department as well. Plus it has the head of the drug task force commander of the clandestine unit here as well. These are some of the reasons why the bill S 241 is the way it is now. Compare too original bill that was drafted by Jeanette White and Joe Banning who spent more time with the people of Vermont and heard from them. They realized from those who helped craft the original bill that was proposed before it reached the Senate judiciary committee and before Mr Sears and Governor Shumlin took over it was a bill that meant the needs of patients of Vermont and set up an even playing field for all Vermonters. This bill does not represent the PEOPLE OF VERMONT. It represents Marijuana Policy Project, Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana, Vermont Cannabis Collaborative business group. It does not repeal previous convictions for cannabis and it does not repeal previous laws it sets up regulations if you don't follow them you are going to be charged with felonies or any other charges and criminal offense. We already have a back log in Vermont's Corrections system do we really have to make more criminals because Vermont's legislators are trying to figure out how to pass codified cannabis laws that would tax the cannabis plant at 25% ask for non refundable payments to those who might be able to come up with enough money for a license. This bill leaves

out a lot of things. It puts in a lot of unnecessary and unwanted things as well. We ask you and your committee to vote no on this bill. Then it should be possible to start talking about how to fix the medical cannabis program first and then work on drafting a common sense bill to fit the needs of the people of Vermont who deserve and desire not to be criminals but to bring their craft above ground and out in a market that would help educated communities about the Endocannabinoid system the medical benefits of Cannabis Sativa L and help people not live in a fear state of Vermont or having a disruption of family or way of life. Hopefully you will read this information and take careful consideration to what I have offered here in this email. My family is a family who already has a tremendous amount of pressure on us with keeping our daughter Leah alive each day. Leah deserves the right to medical cannabis and to have both of her parents around and not have them turned into criminals because they are caregivers under the current medical marijuana program which has no laws saying that we can't make cannabis oil extractions for medical purposes. If the Judiciary committee and the government of Vermont pass this bill we would be turned into criminals under the bill S 241 and that is more harmful than passing a bill for legalization for profit for tax purposes and to meet the requirements set out by the outgoing governor of Vermont and his buddies Mr Sears and Matt Simon of Mpp and Vermont Coalition to regulate marijuana and Vermont Cannabis collaborative business group. That would disrupt a family that has and is doing everything under the current laws of Vermont medical marijuana program. Please consider how much this truly affects the medical cannabis community of Vermont. Please take time to look at the medical marijuana program before you go further into this process of moving forward with the efforts of legalization. Please contact Lindsey Well, Keith Flynn and ask them for information about the current status of the medical marijuana program. We as parents who are educated in cannabis therapies and also would support legalization but not this legalization bill. We ask that you vote down the current bill and allow medical cannabis patients to draft a new medical cannabis program here one that is similar to Maine. Thank you for your time.

Keith Rowe

<https://www.projectcbd.org/article/sourcing-cbd-marijuana-industrial-hemp-vagaries-federal-law>