



151 New Park Avenue Suite 14A  
Hartford, CT 06106  
[info@amplifyct.org](mailto:info@amplifyct.org) (860) 667-6388

Testimony by Marcia DuFore  
On behalf of the Amplify, Inc.  
Before the Judiciary Committee  
In Opposition to SB 888: An Act to Responsibly and Equitably Regulate Adult-Use Cannabis.  
February 26, 2021

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom and distinguished Senators and Representatives of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Marcia DuFore and I am a registered voter in the town of Suffield, Connecticut. I am testifying as Executive Director on behalf the Amplify, Inc., the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) for North Central Connecticut, member of the Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN), NAMI, and Keep the Promise Coalition (KTP)

I am testifying in opposition to SB 888: An Act to Responsibly and Equitably Regulate Adult-Use Cannabis.

Amplify is one of five Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) charged by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to act as their strategic community partner for planning, education, and advocacy to address behavioral health needs and services for children and adults in North Central Connecticut. Our members include people in recovery, families, providers of behavioral health services, members of coalitions concerned about mental wellness and preventing, treating and responding to substance misuse in our communities. We understand that DMHAS has not expressed opposition to this bill and has worked with the Connecticut Legislature to include some language and revenue for prevention and enforcement measures to ensure community safety.

We respectfully submit that the measures and associated revenues detailed in this bill are insufficient to address the harm anticipated by its passage. We reference the letter sent to members of the Judiciary from the DMHAS Advisory Board Subcommittee on Cannabis Legislation and the previously submitted February 2019 letter submitted by the CT Marijuana Harm Reduction Consortium detailing the risks and harm for which harm reduction strategies and associated revenue are anticipated.

Currently the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations are charged by DMHAS to carry out much of the community awareness strategic prevention activities that will prevent the misuse of addictive and/or harmful substances by youth. However, recent studies indicate that youth already view cannabis to be a safe commodity used as means to reduce stress. Continued marketing and awareness campaigns targeting youth are critical for reducing misuse and harmful addiction. Revenues allocated in this bill do not adequately cover this cost, do not invest in prevention infrastructure and do not provide at all for

the role of RBHAOs in this effort. Prevention is a major gap in the current Connecticut infrastructure. Long term planning and investment in prevention is critical to reducing the social impacts related to addiction and mental health.

We anticipate that you will pass this bill and hope to benefit Connecticut through anticipated revenues generated by the sale of cannabis products. We ask that you carefully consider and invest a significant portion of those revenues to address the cost of harms anticipated.

Sincerely

Marcia DuFore