

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Bill Number:	CACR 20
Title:	relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.
Date:	February 23, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill was going to place a right to possess an agricultural product for personal use in the Constitution . This is a trivial use of the Constitution and does not rise to the level of implementation. It is suitable as a regular bill of which there are numerous attempts this year.

Vote 15-5.

Rep. Dave Testerman
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Bill Number:	CACR 20
Title:	relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.
Date:	February 23, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would amend the state constitution to make clear that New Hampshire adults have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption. Legalizing cannabis for adult use is supported by a large majority of New Hampshire residents. But year after year, lawmakers have not followed the will of their constituents. Although this chamber has passed one alternative for cannabis legalization this year, and is currently considering another, the minority supports putting the question before voters in case those other bills fail. Amending the constitution is a last resort, but it remains the only alternative in a state that does not allow referendum questions.

Rep. Casey Conley
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on CACR 20

BILL TITLE: relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

DATE: February 23, 2022

LOB ROOM: 202-204

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Testerman

Seconded by Rep. Roy

Vote: 15-5

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Scott Wallace, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



2/8/2022 3:07:34 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2022 SESSION

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill #: CAR 20 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2.23.22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Abbas, Daryl A. Chairman	15		
Roy, Terry Vice Chairman	1		
Welch, David A.	2		
Burt, John A.	3		
Hepper, Gary S. RHODES	4		
Green, Dennis E.	5		
Wallace, Scott Clerk		1	
Testerman, Dave	6		
True, Chris		2	
Pratt, Kevin M.	7		
Marston, Dick	8		
Harriott-Gathright, Linda C.	9		
Pantelakos, Laura C. S. NEWMAN	10		
O'Hearne, Andrew S. JACK	11		
Bordenet, John	12		
Meuse, David	13		
Newman, Ray E.		3	
Bouldin, Amanda C.	14		
Conley, Casey M.		4	
Bradley, Amy			1
Espitia, Manny		5	

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK






2/8/2022 3:07:34 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2022 SESSION

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill #: CA120 Motion: ITC AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2.23.22

TOTAL VOTE:

	15		5		1
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC HEARING ON CACR 20

BILL TITLE: relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

DATE: January 20, 2022

LOB ROOM: 210-211 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 2:05 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 2:17 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Burt, Green, Wallace, Testerman, Pratt, Marston, Harriott-Gathright, O'Hearne, Bordenet, R. Newman, Amanda Bouldin and Conley Klein-Night

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Espitia

Rep. Grassie

Rep. Conley

Rep. Knirk

Rep. M. Murray

Rep. McWilliams

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Reagan

Sen. Whitley

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. **Altschiller** attended as a replacement member.

Rep. **Conley** introduced the bill. Supports.

Rep. **Roy** asked about two-thirds majority.

Rep. **Burt** asked why Article 2?

Joe **Hannon**, representing NH Harm Reduction Coalition, supports the bill.

Jonah **Wheeler**, Peterborough, NH, representing self, supports the bill.

Frank **Knaack**, representing ACLU of NH, supports the bill.

Written testimony was submitted by Rep. Linda **Gould**, Hills. 7 in opposition of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Scott Wallace

Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 1598 Date 1/20/22

Committee Criminal Justice

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one)	
				Pro	Con
NEIL MUBACKER	03049		CHURCH AMBASSADORS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JOHN BRYKONSKI	BEDFORD, NH	792-1330	NH CHIEFS of POLICE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Celeste Clark	10 Jennifer Ln Raymond	6032441161	Self		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pamela Baker	388 Deerfield rd Concord		NH		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kaylee McGlynn	14 Ann Logan Cir Raymond		NH Self		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frank Knack	#8 Low Ave Concord,		NH ALLU of NH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Debra Naro	23 Cross County Lane Plymouth		NH		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emily Shanahan	3 Paricer Street	603-254-8127	CAD-1 SAMNH		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Brochu	73 Suller Ave	603-254-6331	Campton SMPCC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andie Doherty	328 Washington	603-770-1775		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Deborah	6 Hunter Dr.	781-507-4182		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Erica Layon			Rock 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Timothy Brown	Jewett Hill	617-201-6462	GRAPTON 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Daryl Assas		(603) 560-1929		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REP. JESS EDWARDS			ROCKINGHAM DIST 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Elizabeth Sargent			NH Assoc of Chiefs of Police		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linda Harvitt	Salthedge				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kate Frey			New Futures		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Terry Clayton	Gilford	2625010869		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep Linda Gould			DIST 7 Hills		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep Michael Yakubovich	Hooksett		Merr-24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

House Remote Testify

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Testify List for Bill CACR20 on 2022-01-20

Support: 15 Oppose: 13 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Reagan, Senator John	Deerfield, NH kathryn.cummings@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Senate District 17	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 2:46 PM
Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca	Portsmouth, NH rebecca.perkinskwoke@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 3:10 PM
Allore, William	Bethlehem, NH Walloreiii@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 9:32 AM
Weston, Joyce	Plymouth, NH jweston14@roadrunner.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 9:36 AM
Allore, Jamie	Bethlehem, NH jamienniallore@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 9:39 AM
Shick, Larson	Bethlehem, NH shickstone@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 10:13 AM
Hannon, Michael	Jefferson, NH Michael.Hannon603@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 10:45 AM
Short, Raymond	Hooksett, NH rayshort910@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 4:20 PM
Brooks, Christopher	Bethlehem, NH trib@tributaries.info	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 12:28 AM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 5:51 PM
Davis, Johnna	Gilford, NH jdavis@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 2:49 PM
Lewis, Elizabeth	Nashua, NH ecop.lewis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:37 AM
Ruediger, Elizabeth	Dummer, NH bethnart@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:38 AM

Reed, Sarah	Concord, NH stubbs.saraha@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:32 AM
Reed, William	Concord, NH willie.b.reed@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:33 AM
Bryfonski, John	Bedford, NH jbryfonski@bedfordnh.org	A Member of the Public	NH Association of Chiefs of Police	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 11:13 AM
Erickson, Amy	Wolfeboro, NH ableacres@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 11:13 AM
Burnap, Linda	Wolfeboro, NH 54able@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 11:55 AM
Keeler, Margaret	New London, NH peg5keeler@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 2:05 PM
Timchak, Ruth G	Center Conway, NH ruthtimchak@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 2:49 PM
Dunn, Robert	Manchester, NH rdunn@rcbm.org	A Lobbyist	Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 3:44 PM
Zaenglein, Barbara	AMHERST, NH bzaenglein@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 4:54 PM
Zaenglein, Eric	Amherst, NH henley11@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 5:01 PM
Gould, Matthew	Litchfield, NH mgould3090@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:46 PM
Frost, Sherry	Dover, NH s.frost@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 9:03 AM
Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 3:49 PM
See, Alvin	Loudon, NH absee@4liberty.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/19/2022 3:57 PM
POST, LISA CM	Lyndeborough, NH Lisacmpost@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 8:00 PM
Marcoux, Sarah	Northfield, NH marcouxhouse@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/19/2022 9:37 PM
Marcoux, Joseph	Northfield, NH Joeymarcoux@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/19/2022 9:57 PM
Stockwell, Daniel	Dublin, NH danstockwell.nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 11:31 PM

Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 11:52 PM
Loveless, Eric	bedford, NH nassur34@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 12:29 AM
Saltzman, Michael	Manchester, NH saltzman_mike@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 7:53 AM
Simon, Matt	Manchester, NH matt.simon@primeatc.com	A Lobbyist	Prime Alternative Treatment Centers of NH	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 8:01 AM
Vanbibber, Rolf	Amherst, NH rolfvanbibber@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 8:31 AM
Lord, Brian	Deering, NH blord@antrimpolice.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 8:42 AM
Miller, Ken	Thornton, NH kmill192@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 9:06 AM
Croft, David	Salisbury, NH dcroft4@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 9:14 AM
Duquette, Gary	Deerfield, NH policechief@toownofdeerfieldnh.com	A Lobbyist	NH Chiefs of Police Association	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 9:19 AM
perez, maria	milford, NH mariaeli63@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 9:36 AM
Lewandoski, Mark	Belmont, NH policechief@belmontnh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 11:03 AM
Neal, Robert	New Ipswich, NH robertmneal93@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 11:04 AM
Alleman, Bill	Weare, NH gencourt@allemanse.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 12:11 PM
Hoebeke, Joseph	Hollis, NH jhoebeke@hollisnh.org	A Member of the Public	New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 12:37 PM
Gordon, Laurie	Weare, NH lmgord23@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 12:45 PM
Walczyk, Alexander	Hooksett, NH awalczyk@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 1:15 PM
Campbell, Karolyn	Epsom, NH kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 1:30 PM
Murray, Megan	Amherst, NH Megan.Murray@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Hills 22	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 1:37 PM

Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/20/2022 2:39 PM
Gordon, Margaret	Weare, NH Megordon98@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 8:47 PM
Cherrington, Brett	Hillsborough, NH brettacherrington@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2022 8:56 PM

CACR 20 – End New Hampshire’s Unnecessary and Harmful War on Marijuana

Bill Summary: This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution establishes that right for all adults to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

A marijuana possession arrest can ruin lives. Sold to the public in the name of public safety, New Hampshire’s marijuana laws needlessly ensnare over a thousand people -- disproportionately Black people -- in its criminal justice system every year. These arrests are not just an unnecessary burden on New Hampshire residents and the judicial system, but also negatively effect access to employment, housing, student financial aid, and child custody, among others, for the person arrested. These collateral harms can last for decades, even after someone has served their time or paid any required fines. It is past time to end New Hampshire’s unnecessary and harmful war on marijuana.

New Hampshire’s war on marijuana is a monumental waste of tax dollars. For each of the 1,494 marijuana arrests in 2020,ⁱ our tax dollars had to pay for a judge, a clerk, law enforcement officers, prosecutor, and others to process the case. According to an economic analysis published in 2013, the 2,769 marijuana possession arrests in 2010 cost New Hampshire taxpayers \$6,526,364 that year.ⁱⁱ Despite New Hampshire’s decriminalization of marijuana possession in 2017,ⁱⁱⁱ law enforcement still arrested 1,494 people in 2020 for marijuana possession,^{iv} meaning New Hampshire taxpayers may still be paying close to \$3.25 million each year to enforce marijuana possession laws. Lawmakers should stop wasting tax dollars on this failed war.

New Hampshire’s war on marijuana is enforced with a staggering racial bias. In 2020 Black people were 4.8 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession when compared with whites,^v despite both groups using marijuana at roughly the same rate.^{vi} And, this disparity is on the rise, up from 2.6 times more likely to be arrested in 2010 – a 46 percent increase.^{vii} The racial bias in enforcement is even more pronounced with the city police departments in Manchester and Concord, where the disparities are 13.9 times and 5.8 times respectively.^{viii} The discriminatory enforcement of New Hampshire’s marijuana laws means that Black people are more likely to face the immediate harms of a marijuana arrest and charge, including potential incarceration, as well as the collateral consequences, including the loss of jobs, housing, financial aid eligibility, and child custody.

The vast majority of Granite Staters support marijuana legalization. Seventy-five percent of Granite Staters support marijuana legalization, including majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.^{ix} And, support for marijuana legalization has greatly increased since 2013, when it was just 49 percent.^x It is past time for New Hampshire lawmakers to listen to the people and legalize marijuana possession by adults.

Opponents of marijuana legalization rely on fear-based rhetoric divorced from reality. Marijuana legalization opponents argue that marijuana legalization leads to increased youth use, crime, and traffic fatalities. They also argue that marijuana is a gateway drug that is partially responsible for the opioid epidemic. The data from legalization states do not support these claims. Multiple studies have found no increase in youth use in states that have legalized marijuana.^{xi} Legalization has also not substantially affected crime rates,^{xii} and, according to a multi-year study of Colorado and Washington, may have improved crime clearance rates.^{xiii} Fortunately, it also appears that marijuana legalization has had “little or no effect” on traffic accidents and fatalities.^{xiv} Finally, evidence suggests that marijuana legalization is connected with a reduction in opioid related deaths.^{xv} New Hampshire lawmakers have the benefit of years of data from legalization states to distinguish myth from reality.

Support CACR 20 – The war on marijuana does not make us safe, wastes taxpayer dollars, and ruins lives.

- ⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Arrests in New Hampshire by Offense, Drug Possession – Marijuana, 2020, available at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/arrest>.
- ⁱⁱ ACLU, *The War on Marijuana in Black and White*, p. 164, available at <https://www.aclu.org/report/report-war-marijuana-black-and-white>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ NH Rev Stat § 318-B:2-c (2017).
- ^{iv} 1,494 marijuana possession arrests in 2020 and 2,769 marijuana possession arrests in 2010. See, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Arrests in New Hampshire by Offense, Drug Possession – Marijuana, 2020, available at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/arrest> & ACLU, *The War on Marijuana in Black and White*, p. 127, available at <https://www.aclu.org/report/report-war-marijuana-black-and-white>.
- ^v New Hampshire arrested 1,494 people for marijuana possession in 2020. 1,494 arrests of white people and 125 arrests of Black people. See, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Arrests in New Hampshire by Offense, Drug Possession – Marijuana, 2020, available at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/arrest> & U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts, New Hampshire, available at https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/manchestercitynewhampshire_concordcitynewhampshire/PST045221.
- ^{vi} Fred Dews, *Charts of the week: Marijuana use by race, Islamist rule in Middle East, climate adaptation savings*, Brookings, Aug. 11, 2017, available at <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/08/11/charts-of-the-week-marijuana-use-by-race/>.
- ^{vii} ACLU, *The War on Marijuana in Black and White*, p. 127, available at <https://www.aclu.org/report/report-war-marijuana-black-and-white>.
- ^{viii} Manchester Police Department arrested 26 people for marijuana possession in 2020. 13 arrests of white people and 13 arrests of Black people. See, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Arrests in New Hampshire by Offense, Drug Possession – Marijuana, 2020, Manchester Police, available at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/arrest>. U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts, Manchester city, New Hampshire, available at https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/manchestercitynewhampshire_concordcitynewhampshire/PST045221; Concord Police Department arrested 33 people for marijuana possession in 2020. 26 arrests of white people and 6 arrests of Black people. Concord's population is 43,976. White people comprise percent of the population and Black people comprise percent of the population. See, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Arrests in New Hampshire by Offense, Drug Possession – Marijuana, 2020, Concord Police, available at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/arrest>. U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts, Concord city, New Hampshire, available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/concordcitynewhampshire>.
- ^{ix} Ian Lenahan, *Now surrounded by legal weed states, will NH follow suit? Gov. Sununu says 'you never know'*, Portsmouth Herald, Aug 20, 2021, available at <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/08/20/new-hampshire-marijuana-laws-weed-is-leg-al-in-surrounding-states-will-nh-follow/8101297002/>.
- ^x Ian Lenahan, *Now surrounded by legal weed states, will NH follow suit? Gov. Sununu says 'you never know'*, Portsmouth Herald, Aug 20, 2021, available at <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/08/20/new-hampshire-marijuana-laws-weed-is-leg-al-in-surrounding-states-will-nh-follow/8101297002/>.
- ^{xi} See, e.g. Anderson, Mark D., et al., *Association of Marijuana Laws With Teen Marijuana Use New Estimates From the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys*, Journal of the American Medical Association, July 2019 (Recreational marijuana laws were associated with an 8% decrease in the odds of marijuana use and a 9% decrease in the odds of frequent marijuana use.; Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) data, available at <https://marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov/health-data/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-hkcs-data>; Marijuana Policy Project, *Teen Marijuana Use Does Not Increase Following Marijuana Policy Reforms*, available at <https://www.mpp.org/issues/legalization/teen-marijuana-use-does-not-increase/>.
- ^{xii} Angela Dills, et. al., *The Effect of State Marijuana Legalizations: 2021 Update*, CATO Institute, Feb. 2, 2021, available at <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2021-01/PA908.pdf>; Greg Rosalsky, *The Data On Legalizing Weed*, Planet Money/NPR, Mar. 16, 2021, available at <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/03/16/976265525/the-data-on-legalizing-weed>.
- ^{xiii} David A. Makin, et. al., *Marijuana Legalization and Crime Clearance Rates: Testing Proponent Assertions in Colorado and Washington State*, National Institute of Justice, 2019, available at <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/marijuana-legalization-and-crime-clearance-rates-testing-proponent-assertions>.
- ^{xiv} Greg Rosalsky, *The Data On Legalizing Weed*, Planet Money/NPR, Mar. 16, 2021, available at <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/03/16/976265525/the-data-on-legalizing-weed>; Angela Dills, et. al., *The Effect of State Marijuana Legalizations: 2021 Update*, CATO Institute, Feb. 2, 2021, available at <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2021-01/PA908.pdf>; & Benjamin Hansen, et. al., *Early Evidence on Recreational Marijuana Legalization and Traffic Fatalities*, Mar. 2018, available at https://www.nber.org/papers/w24417?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20210311&utm_term=5237211&utm_campaign=money&utm_id=7043805&orgid=305&utm_att1=money.
- ^{xv} Greta Hsu & Balázs Kovács, *Association between county level cannabis dispensary counts and opioid related mortality rates in the United States: panel data study*, BMJ, Jan. 27, 2021, available at <https://www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.m4957>; Greg Rosalsky, *The Data On Legalizing Weed*, Planet Money/NPR, Mar. 16, 2021, available at <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/03/16/976265525/the-data-on-legalizing-weed>.

**To members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety
committee**

HB 1598, HB 1306, HB 1348, CACR 20, CACR 34

NOT IN SUPPORT

**Reasons PRO and CON for legalizing marijuana, etc.
Representative Linda Gould, District 7, Hillsborough**

REASONS FOR NOT LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

1. National Academy of Medicine, 2017 “cannabis use is **likely to increase THE RISK OF DEVELOPING SCHIZOPHRENIA AND OTHER PSYCHOSES**; the higher the use, the greater the risk”
2. One in 15 drinkers consumed alcohol daily; about one in five marijuana users used cannabis that often
3. Marijuana routinely contains 20 to 25 percent THC – in the ‘70’s it contained less than 2 percent.
4. In a Bedford survey, students have tried marijuana before age 13. (“ 68 students in Bedford tried pot at age 12 or earlier”)
5. As to **marijuana being a gateway drug**: same concern such as with e-cigarettes- and a person saying” I will not allow a generation of children to become addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes”
6. Children don’t have sense to make good decisions so they get hooked on drugs- just as people get hooked on pain killers and go onto stronger drugs. It will hurt our youth. It is a gateway drug.
7. It will degrade our communities.
8. **There is significant evidence that there is permanent brain damage from marijuana use under the age of 25(like lead poisoning)**
8. It will affect our work force.
9. Statistics show highway death rates related to marijuana have increased in other states since legalization and commercialization. (35 in Colorado in 2017, up from 19 in 2014) What if that were your child who died?
10. According to the national Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 12.6 percent of weekend nighttime drivers tested positive for THC in 2013-14 compared to 8.6 percent in 2007. There is no accepted roadside test or level of THC in the blood to determine impairment.
11. More than 50,000 people died from opioid overdoses in 2017- do we want to start people on this path? (From Prevent Opioid Abuse organization) . This is more deaths than in some wars.
12. New Hampshire has one of the highest rates of binge drinking and substance misuse in young people, as well as the nation’s lowest perception of harm from marijuana. Children are not aware of the problems with it. (from New Futures)
- 13.”The Study: Marijuana use by middle-aged and older adults in the united States 2015-2016” in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence: Study says there is a danger to older people who may use alcohol and marijuana simultaneously.

14. Celeste Clark of Raymond Coalition for Youth says her coalition has identified marijuana use, vaping, and underage drinking as the most important issues to address.

15." The legalization of recreational marijuana has sent a message to our youth that it's safe to use. Parents of 10 year olds have come to our group because their child is using" (Dear Abby / BILY resource group)

16. NH Police Association of Police chiefs oppose the legalization of marijuana.

17. Colorado has seen a dramatic increase in opioid overdose deaths since recreational use of marijuana was legalized.

18. Maternal cannabis smoking is associated with lower birth weight of offspring and in utero impaired brain development.

19. **The developing brain of a young person is particularly sensitive to damage from exposure to marijuana.** Frequent or long term Marijuana use is linked to school dropout and lower educational achievement. And we need good workers in NH!

20." Businesses are struggling to adequately staff due to low unemployment in NH. Releasing marijuana for recreational use would add to their difficulty. As is happening in Colorado, many of our businesses will be challenged to find employees who can pass a pre-employment drug screen, especially those in construction, transportation, and those doing business with the federal government. In Colorado there are nearly as many businesses selling marijuana as the combined number of McDonald's and Starbucks- is this what we want for our communities?" (Dr. William Goodman , CMC)

21. BE Bold of Bedford, NH has had presentations of young people who talk about the dangers of being in a drug culture. Be Bold does not favor legalization.

22. Marijuana can be laced with other drugs including Fentanyl, which can kill you the first time you try it.

23." Today's heroin addicts were last year's teenage marijuana users, who, if they were screened, maybe would have had a different outcome" Tym Rourke – NHCE

24. People say the smell of marijuana coming from apartments and homes is a nuisance, affects their enjoyment of the outdoors and even inside their homes. It also can affect property values. People complain about the smell of weed.

25. In JAMA 2012-2013, nearly 30 percent of users had marijuana use disorder/MUD. Symptoms include problem with normal functioning, cravings and withdrawal symptom, such as inability to sleep, restlessness, nervousness, anger or depression within a week of ceasing heavy use.

26. Initiatives that have legalized marijuana for medical or recreational use in many states appear to be a factor behind its rising popularity among teens.

27. 4/17- US Data : drivers killed in crashes were more likely to be on drugs than drunk, with marijuana involved in more than a third of fatal accidents in 2015. Forty- three percent of drivers tested in fatal crashes around the country in 2015 had used a legal or illegal drug, topping the 37% who showed alcohol levels above the legal limit. 36.5 % had used marijuana.

28. “ He doesn’t wake up anymore and need a drink or use drugs; but he knows the danger an addict has over even one sip of beer or quick hit of marijuana. There is no gray area” 25 year old Jake Howard/ Union Leader 12/18/17

29. AAA research shows that in a five year period before legalized pot, fewer than nine percent of Washington drivers in fatal crashes had THC, the potent pot component, in their system- an average of 56 drivers annually. Since 2012, and for the next 5 years, the rate doubled to 18 percent, an average of 130 a year.

30. Dr. Oz and Roizen,” People 21 to 25 are most likely to smoke and drive; those 16 to 20 are second most likely- and they are at greatest risk for accidents anyway. Many folks don’t realize that the impairing effects of marijuana can last for hours or more, or that, according to AAA, today’s pot is 10 times more powerful than the weed from the 70’s.” January 21, 2020

31. Drs. Oz and Roizen:” these days there are marijuana cookies, gummies, hard candies, pizza, chips, trail mix, ice creams, sodas, coffees, teas, energy drinks and condiments.” Effects can last for hours and pets and children can consume with deleterious effects.

32. Dr. Oz February 12, 2020: “ Researchers from MacLean Hospital’s Cognitive and Clinical Neuroimaging Core and the Marijuana Investigations for Neuroscientific Discovery (MIND) program published a study in Drug and Alcohol Dependence that looked at chronic users’ driving skills. Those were folks who had used in five or more of the past seven days, reported using at least 1,500 times in their life, and then abstained for at least 12 hours before participating in the study. The results clearly showed that chronic users have more accidents, drive faster and drive through more red lights than nonusers. Folks who started smoking weed regularly as young teens have the worst driving skills.

33. It is a danger to seniors who mix with prescriptions such as blood thinners.

34. “Marijuana can have serious interactions with 21+ different drugs and moderate interactions with 286+, say RxList.com. It can also trigger anxiety and paranoia, according to a study published in the Journal of Cannabis Research..... also Lab based research shows THC keeps fertilized eggs from maturing by interfering with gene expression. And yes, smoking pot does increase the risk of serious infection with Covid-19.” From Dr. Oz April 2020

35. “ Parents and school officials are voicing concerns about a survey showing that more Bedford teens are experimenting with heroin, methamphetamines and ecstasy than the state average.” Union Leader September 22 , 2020. And what about marijuana??

36. SAM sent a report to Legislators this year with information about the issue of drugs also. Please refer to it.

REASONS FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

Follow the money:

1. Legitimization of the drug has gathered pace at an astonishing speed, with traditional consumer and pharmaceutical companies ranging from Constellation Brands and Anheuser - Busch-In Bev to Altria Group and Novartis investing in or partnering with pot firms. (Union Leader January 8,2019)
2. In Canada: the number of cannabis listings has soared with at least 149 companies worth at least C\$ 54.7 billion trading on Canadian stock exchanges as of January 2. A growing number of those are U.S. firms with market values above C \$ 1 billion . (Union Leader January 8,2019)
3. According to the Denver Post, marijuana sales in Colorado had already reached \$1 billion by August of this year. This resulted in \$200 million in tax revenue for the state. Colorado is on track to surpass last year's total of \$1.5 billion in marijuana sales. An expanding market and the popularity of edible products are credited for the increase in sales.

Is it worth it??

Archived: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:40:44 PM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:23:43 PM

To: ~House Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Cc: Tom Lanzara

Subject: In opposition to CACR 20 relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

Importance: Normal

Ref: Jan 20, 2022 Committee Meeting

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE -

I write in opposition to CACR 20. This bill proposes a NH Constitution amendment ballot question "All adults shall have the right to possess cannabis intended for their personal consumption."

Please amend CACR 20 so as to be a limitation upon government rather than an enabling right gifted by government to the people.

Additionally, please amend CACR 20 so as to inhibit government from denying cannabis to those who are not guardians of others, or those in authority over others, or those who are first responders, or those who operate construction equipment, or those who operate the safety features of public utilities, or those who carry weapons of any type, or those who are in control of vehicles, etc.

Otherwise recommend ITL.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

Archived: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:40:47 PM

From: Elizabeth Ruediger

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:50:21 AM

To: ~House Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Subject: NH House Remote Testify: 2:00 pm - CACR20 in House Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Importance: Normal

"MY BODY, MY CHOICE!"

We are surrounded by states who have legalized adult possession of marijuana. We look like an oasis of stupidity on the cannabis map.

It is time to get with the program. I'm still waiting for the bill proposition to legalize prostitution and give the sex industry regulation and safety provisions, but it is high time to tax ass and grass in the state of NH.

That.... is personal liberty at it's finest. The day when I can call UberPuff and UberHookup and they drop off a hot dude promising a happy ending and a sweet box of pre-rolls, will be heaven on earth.

Life is good.... You can make it just a bit better by passing this bill.

~Elizabeth Ruediger

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: In opposition to CACR 20 relating to personal liberty. Providing that adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

From: Daniel Richardson <daniel6_22@comcast.net>

Date: 1/18/2022, 1:23 PM

To: HouseCriminalJusticeandPublicSafety@leg.state.nh.us

CC: Tom Lanzara <tomlanzara@gmail.com>

BCC: Di Lothrop <dilothrop@yahoo.com>, Pastor Denis Frediani <djsddm6@gmail.com>

Ref: Jan 20, 2022 Committee Meeting

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Otherwise recommend ITL.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

CA CR 20 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2244

07/04

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **20**

RELATING TO: personal liberty.

PROVIDING THAT: adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep. Espitia, Hills. 31; Rep. Grassie, Straf. 11; Rep. Conley, Straf. 13; Rep. Knirk, Carr. 3; Rep. M. Murray, Hills. 22; Rep. McWilliams, Merr. 27; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution establishes that right for all adults to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

.....

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RELATING TO: personal liberty.

PROVIDING THAT: adults shall have the right to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Constitution of New Hampshire be amended as follows:

1 I. That the first part of the constitution be amended by inserting after article 2-b the
2 following new article:

3 [Art.] 2-c. [Adult possession of cannabis.] All adults shall have the right to possess cannabis
4 intended for their personal consumption.

5 II. That the above amendment proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified
6 voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2022.

7 III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to
8 insert in their warrants for the said 2022 election an article to the following effect: To decide
9 whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2022 session of the general court shall
10 be approved.

11 IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:
12 “Are you in favor of amending the first part of the constitution by inserting after article 2-b a new
13 article to read as follows:

14 [Art.] 2-c. [Adult possession of cannabis.] All adults shall have the right to possess cannabis
15 intended for their personal consumption.”

16 V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot or
17 on the same ballot with other constitutional questions. The ballot containing the question shall
18 include 2 squares next to the question allowing the voter to vote “Yes” or “No.” If no cross is made in
19 either of the squares, the ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall
20 be the same as the regular official ballot except that the words “Questions Relating to Constitutional
21 Amendments proposed by the 2022 General Court” shall be printed in bold type at the top of the
22 ballot.

23 VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it
24 becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.

25 VII. Voters' Guide.

26 AT THE PRESENT TIME, the New Hampshire constitution does not include the
27 right for adults to possess cannabis for personal consumption.

28 IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, adults in New Hampshire will have the right

1 to possess cannabis for personal consumption.