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March 20, 2013

William M. Rubenstein
Commissioner
Dept of Consumer Protection
Room 103, State Office Bldg
165 Capitol Av
Hartford, CT 06106

RECEIVED

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DEPT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein –

Thank you for my Medical Marijuana Program patient's card, Patient ID CT308M345607B606510.

I am informed of the Public Hearing to be held April 22 during which patients may express their views or give suggestions regarding regulations. Classes are in session that day, so my employment at Connecticut College prevents my attendance at the hearing. Instead, please accept my suggestion here in writing, In compliance with the DCP's *Notice of Intent to Adopt Regulations*, I provide one original as well as ten copies,

(NEW) Sec. 21a-408-8. Revocation or suspension of a qualifying patient or primary caregiver registration ... (7) The qualifying patient uses marijuana in a place or manner not permitted by the Act or sections 21a-408-1 to 21a-408-70, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

That "place" as listed in Public Act No. 12-55, Section 2, currently includes:

(C) on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property.

This same text is deemed so crucial that it is restated on the back of each Medical Marijuana Program patient's card:

[snip ...] This registration does not permit the use of marijuana [...snip...] on any school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property [... snip]

In regards to these above passages, I call your attention to testimony during the March 7, 2013 Public Hearing before the Judiciary Committee by Salvatore Sodaro, a college student, and the response from Senator John A. Kissel, a ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The six minute video clip is uploaded on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/Lx6AY1dFzM> and here is the transcript:



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Salvatore Sodaro: [snip ...] I would like to see some language in the bill that protects students living on campus at a public university such as U-Conn from being prosecuted in any other way by the institution itself for using their medicine which they are legally prescribed. [... snip]

Sate Senator John A. Kissel: [snip ...] I would hope that they [U-Conn] would be in compliance with the protection afforded in this law. If we have to spell it out, we will spell it out. [... snip ...] And I would hope that for those individuals, if they happen to be in college that are private colleges throughout the state of Connecticut, that those places would be sensitive too. My guess is that that shouldn't be a problem. [... snip]

As a patient, I suggest a modification to the current very prohibitive law.

I ask that exemption be granted to campus residents who are 18 years or older so that they can use marijuana in the privacy of their homes. For students such as Salvatore Sodaro at University of Connecticut at Storrs, this would be their secured dormitory rooms. Smoking of anything indeed would be in violation of most campus bans on smoking in buildings, but cannabis can be administered as a tincture, as a salve, and as an edible, in fact medical edibles, nicknamed *medibles*, are a flourishing trade on the West Coast and in Canada.

I ask that exemption be granted to faculty and academic staff in their private residences owned by their employing colleges. Such faculty housing is routinely provided to newly appointed tenure-track professors. Often the houses, though property of the colleges, are off-campus. In the case with Connecticut College of New London, several faculty houses are half a mile from campus in Waterford.

Such permission could be documented by written permission from the college's Director of Health Services (if for students) or Human Resources (if for employees), and/or from one senior administrator such as a Vice-President.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Braunstein". The signature is stylized with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Braunstein