

**Attention: Social Affairs Committee of the Senate**

**Attention: Clerk: Shaila Anwar**

**My name is Laurence White of Ponoka, Alberta.**

**Please be advised that I am very concerned as a Canadian citizen that the government of my country is passing legislation which violates the UN drug treaties that Canada signed on to support , precisely: the UN treaties that prohibits our country from allowing children under the age of 18 to have access to marijuana.**

**Canada has ratified UN drug treaties that prohibit the use of marijuana S.33 of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) specifically states that it is the responsibility of governments to protect children from the use and trafficking of drugs:**

**33 Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in their illicit production and trafficking of such substances.**

**The CRC defines “child” as anyone under eighteen years of age.**

- 1. Does our treaty obligations mean nothing to our government?**
- 2. Do we treat our international obligations as the communist countries and the Muslim countries do?**
- 3. Do you personally have no moral obligation to uphold our country’s international promises?**

**Global Affairs Canada testified before the same Committee last month that Canada will not be withdrawing from or seek reservations to, nor take any treaty actions regarding the three drug conventions. That is, Canada plans to ignore the drug treaties and the Convention on the Rights of the Child which latter provides that children must be protected from illicit drug use. Bill C-45 permits children between 12 and 18 years of age to possess and distribute 5**

grams (10 joints) of marijuana. This is not in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By ignoring its treaty obligations, Canada will be setting a dangerous precedent for other countries to also violate UN treaties. It puts in jeopardy significant other treaties such as the non-proliferation nuclear treaties, treaties against war crimes, and the seven human rights treaties. This creates major problems for world order and international governance. This is not a trivial matter.

In addition, Uruguay, which is the only other country to regulate marijuana at the national level, has been the subject of the U.S. government invoking of the Patriot Act which prohibits U.S. banks from handling funds for distributors of marijuana. This has resulted in Uruguay being cut off from the entire financial services market in regard to marijuana distribution since every business associated with the marijuana industry risks being in violation of the U.S. drug laws and lose access to U.S. banks and dollar transactions.

Canada prides itself in being a democratic country that respects and promotes the rule of law. This will no longer be the case if Canada enacts Bill C-45.

Please reconsider passing Bill C-45 due to the above and the following:

**Please, Ms. Shaila Anwar, take note that Mr. Trudeau has been going across the country loudly proclaiming that the objective of his marijuana legislation is, “to reduce harm to Canadians”, or as other government officials put it “rooted in public health”, and to, “decrease the black market of marijuana.” These statements of our Prime Minister are blatantly ignoring the reality of recreational marijuana use which occurred in Colorado when it legalized recreational marijuana in 2013. Since that time, Colorado has experienced:**

**A). Marijuana use by Colorado youth between the ages of 12 to 17 has increased by 20 percent which was 74 percent higher than in the states that have not legalized the recreational use of marijuana. [I am sure you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**B). In Colorado, marijuana use of university youths increased by 17 percent. [This will reduce our Canadian students' ability to compete intellectually both at home and internationally] [I am sure you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**C). In Colorado, marijuana use by adults aged 26 plus years old increased by 63 percent in comparison to 21 percent in the states that have not legalized the recreational use of marijuana. This is 42 percent more drivers on the road impaired by marijuana use. Which shows in the 32 percent increase in marijuana related traffic deaths in Colorado once recreational marijuana use was legalized. I am sure you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?**

**D). In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating in Colorado, there was a 32 percent increase in marijuana related traffic deaths. But the states that had no legalized use of recreational marijuana, the traffic deaths from "ALL" causes, increased only by 8 percent. [I am sure you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**E). Also, there was a 29 percent increase in the number of marijuana related Emergency Room visits in 2014, and a 38 percent increase in the number of hospitalizations in Colorado due to marijuana use. [This increase in cost to our medical services will be a serious problem across Canada. I am sure you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**F). During the years 2013 to 2014 in Colorado, the average number of children exposed to marijuana was 31 per year. This was an increase of 138 percent. [Now pick yourself up off the floor Ms. Shaila Anwar and keep reading because it gets worse. Oh, I forgot you know all this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**G). According to the Colorado Attorney General, legalization of marijuana DID NOT REDUCE BLACK MARKET MARIJUANA ACTIVITY. "The criminals**

are still selling marijuana on the black market... We have plenty of cartel activity and plenty of illegal activity that HAS NOT DECREASED AT ALL.” [This proves that what Mr. Trudeau are spreading across the country is nothing but propaganda and has no truth to it whatsoever. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]

H). Homelessness in Colorado surged by 50 percent with 30 percent of newcomers living in shelters, have moved to Colorado to have easy access to marijuana. Putting a bigger strain on the Police Force, Emergency Hospital Wards, Ambulances, Fire Departments, Shelters, and Food Banks. [I know you must know this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]

Canada’s own Health Canada Website lists the risks of marijuana to include:

a). Risks to health, some of which may NOT be known or fully understood. Studies supporting the safety and efficacy of cannabis for therapeutic purposes are limited and DO NOT meet the standards required by the Food and Drug Regulations. [I know you must know this because it comes from Canada’s own Health Canada Website. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]

b). Smoking cannabis is NOT recommended. Do not smoke or vaporize cannabis in the presence of children. [Please note Ms. Shaila Anwar the severe increased exposure to marijuana affects on the children in Colorado once recreational use of marijuana was legalized. But I am sure you know all this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]

c). Using cannabis or any cannabis product will impair concentration, the ability to think and make decisions, reaction time and concentration. This can affect your motor skills, including the ability to drive. [No wonder motor vehicle accidents increased by 32 percent in Colorado once recreational marijuana use legalized. But I am sure you know all this. So,

**what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?]**

**d). It can also increase anxiety and cause panic attacks, and in some cases cause paranoia and hallucinations. [no wonder traffic accidents increased in Colorado once recreational use of marijuana was legalized.]**

**This information ie. a), b), c), d), all comes directly from our own Canada's Health Canada Website. But I am sure you know all this. So, what could possibly be motivating your government to support this legislation?**

**The warnings from Canada's own Health Canada Website go on to list specifically when cannabis should NEVER be used:**

**I). Under age 25 (because the brain under age 25 has not fully developed and is susceptible to addiction.) [Now Ms. Shaila Anwar you see why we need to raise the age of accessibility to marijuana to 25 years of age. It has been stated in the Senate on Tuesday, February 06, 2018 that the individual provinces may raise or lower the age of access to marijuana. But your government is the one who has brought forth this legislation believing it is , "rooted in public health", therefore the responsibility to protect our citizens from harm rests on your government who is bringing this legislation into existence as it has been stated in the Senate, not passing on the responsibility to protect the citizens of our country to the provinces. But the fact that you are passing the responsibility on to the provinces proves you are choosing the age limit for political reasons, not health reasons].**

**II). Who have serious liver, kidney, heart, or lung disease.**

**III). Who has a personal or family history of serious mental disorder such as schizophrenia, psychosis, depression, or bipolar disorder. [Many women after delivering a child acquires bipolar symptoms.]. [My wife has been pregnant 22 times, so I should know what I am talking about.]. [As most of Canada's children are aborted you might think this bipolar problem is not an issue; not true, they still go through the same problems as if they had delivered the baby. So, what is the government going to do to prevent all these mental problem people from accessing marijuana? At**

**present these people need to get a doctor's permission to use marijuana. Therefore, the responsibility for the damage done to these mental problem people will rest solely on your shoulders].**

**IV). Who is pregnant, is planning to get pregnant, or is breast feeding.**

**V). Who is a man who wishes to start a family.**

**VI). Who has a history of alcohol or drug abuse or substance dependence. [With this new legislation these people will have**

**total access to this harmful (according to Canada's own Health Canada Website) drug.]**

**Now Ms. Shaili Anwar, I suspect you are just going to shred this letter but at least you will know that we, the public, are not as ignorant as you think we are.**

**There is another point I would like to make:**

**Our Prime Minister has stacked the deck against us (the citizens of Canada) by establishing a task force to make recommendations on marijuana use whose nine members include Dr. Perry Kendal, who, both as Ontario Medical Officer of Health and British Columbia provincial Health Officer, has continually advocated for legalization of any kind of drugs, including ecstasy, heroin, and methamphetamines. The Committee's Report, released in December of 2016, could have been written by the marijuana industry. It was void of any concern for public and especially childrens' safety. If implemented this bill would cause severe damage to generations of Canadians to the benefit of the marijuana industry. The committee recommended that the age of majority, that is 18, be set for the use of marijuana, (19 years old for those in provinces where 19 years old is the age of majority), when our own Canadian Medical Association on May 29, 2017 in its Journal stated that current research shows that the brain does not reach maturity until the age of 25; and also states that allowing the use of marijuana prior to age 25 would seriously raise the risk of developing dependency over a life time to 17 percent higher than those who begin using marijuana over 25 years of age. Because the above is public knowledge, I know that you must know all the above. So again I ask, "What could possibly motivate your government to support this legislation?"**

**This Bill C-45, is a devastating attack on Canadian society and Canadian families, because according to the Bill:**

**-Anyone over age 17 may freely possess marijuana in any amount. It only restricts its public use (and sharing) to 30 grams at a time. (equal to 60 joints).**

**-Private homes may grow up to four marijuana plants without legal sanction.**

**-Children over age 11 can freely possess, use, and even share marijuana up to 5 grams at a time (10 joints). There is absolutely no recourse if a minor is seen carrying, using, or handing out marijuana. A child can literally take ten joints from his parents' stash, hand it out to his friends, go back home, take another ten, hand them out and keep doing it as often as he wants. This will deeply affect school environments and our neighbourhoods.**

**There are many other negative reasons for legalization of recreational use of marijuana, but I am afraid I might have already crossed the line of your patience.**

**Ms. Shaili Anwar please, please, please do not pass this Bill for our children's sake.**

**The public-school system will be an unsafe environment for our children. We will be forced to homeschool our children.**

**Laurence White**