



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0001 Constitutional Amendment - Cannabis - Adult Use and Possession

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Clippinger

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0001 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The youth of this state, like the youth of most states and countries around the world, experiments with controlled substances. This process is something that legislation, criminality, and teaching cannot seem to change. Our sons and daughters, and in most cases we, ourselves, have experimented with cannabis. And yet, for many of our young people, a criminal record often starts with a small amount of cannabis.

How hard is it to get a job with a criminal record? How much extra struggle in a person's life is it worth?

Our members believe that we need to stop arresting our youth for doing just what many of us did when we were young. Personal use of cannabis should be legalized.

This bill would allow for a ballot measure to legalize the use and possession of cannabis by anyone who is at least 21 years old. The ballot measure, if it succeeds, would be effective as of July 1, 2023.

This makes sense. It's important to our members that we stop the war on our youth and throw our efforts into stopping more violent crimes.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.