

March 3, 2023

Thank you all for your service to the citizens of the State of Maryland. I am a long time resident of Howard County, roughly 20 years. I moved here having multiple chronic pain problems stemming from Fibromyalgia which has no known treatment or cure. Fibromyalgia has many symptoms that are systemic and affect the entire body. I also have PTSD from multiple childhood traumas. I had a team of doctors before I moved here, who created a treatment plan for me which I brought with me to my new Primary Care Physician in Maryland, and I have had nothing but an uphill battle with Maryland clinicians. I became weary from them pushing me into their way of practicing medicine, instead of taking up my treatment plan and helping me continue to take care of myself. I have had to try many of their ideas for treatments over the years and my health declined. Doctors have told me that I must not be in that much pain if I do not want opioids. I started making different choices and have found that a mix of alternative therapies with natural plant based/herbal remedies are easier on my body than pharmaceuticals. I was so grateful for the Medical Cannabis program in 2018 when I was able to make my first purchase. We know that cannabis has been used for pain for centuries. I have consistently refused opioids for management of my chronic pain because I have family members and friends who have been severely adversely affected or destroyed by them. I am now at a point in my health journey that hospital stays are in my future, and having access to medical cannabis for pain medication is essential to my quality of life. Please treat Medical Cannabis as medicine before the recreational market begins and taints the truth about the medicinal aspects of this sacred plant.

Roilyn McWilliams

Howard County Resident