

Good afternoon.

I would just like to say that I do not understand the point of dedicating more funds and effort to increased cannabis enforcement. Isn't one of the points of legalizing cannabis in the first place to **avoid** needlessly prosecuting people for cannabis-related crimes? Why are we going backwards on this issue? What good is this going to do?

If, instead, we granted more legal growing, processing, and distribution licenses, consumers would have more selection of safe and regulated products, competition would increase, and less people would feel the need to turn to black and grey market channels.

I also find this, frankly, to be a total waste of resources when our state is facing a massive budget deficit. I do not oppose the increased cannabis tax as I understand that Maryland needs to raise more funds for essential programs. However, in my opinion, additional cannabis enforcement is **not** essential. Why are we not instead putting these additional funds towards the environmental regulations that are apparently in danger? If we are truly in such trouble that we cannot continue to fund the programs that protect the health of the planet that we live on, why are we throwing money towards cops? This is the absolute wrong priority, and I oppose bill 214.

Thank you.