

**Oppose: HB1400 - Cannabis -
Legalization, Taxation, and
Regulation**

Anita Reddy
9131 Panorama Drive
Perry Hall, MD 21128-8949
rreddy10@verizon.net
443-668-8362

- My name is Anita Reddy. I am a wife, oncology nurse and was a mother to 4 beautiful teens. My husband a physical therapist and I have spent approximately 15-19 years of our lives dedicated to passionately caring for the medical needs of the community around us. We believed that our body is the Temple of Christ, this is the same philosophy in which we raised our children. **We are Seventh Day Adventist Christians, we do not drink alcohol, or use illicit drugs**
- **On March 27, 2019 our lives were forever changed, we were devastated by the reckless and untimely death of our second child, Aaron Reddy at the young age of 18.** Our family has been traumatized severely by his death, not just because of the manner of his death but by the ensuing investigations and the nightmare that continues to unfold in trying to secure some sort of justice for our son.
- **Aaron was an intelligent, handsome young man, he had a beautiful, compassionate, forgiving, self-sacrificing, quiet nature, accepting and loving everyone.** He had a quick wit and was always joking around with family and friends.
- After his death, we discovered through his friends and police interviews that through his part-time work at a restaurant when in school, **Aaron was befriended by coworkers who groomed him to engage in their marijuana enterprise.** Co-workers with medical marijuana cards were selling high potency marijuana Dabbs, Honey, Shatter, wax, butter to the younger employees. Others were actually making marijuana edibles to sell to contacts made in the restaurant.
- **In addition to smoking marijuana through a bong, Aaron began dabbing high potency marijuana.** Even though he was still living at home, we were clueless about his marijuana use because much of what he consumed as odorless.
- **What we did notice were changes in Aaron's behavior within the year or so before his death.** He, became secretive, was always eager to leave to go to work, avoided family activities and became more aggressive and despondent. What really woke me up to the changes was when I attempted to kiss his forehead while he was asleep on the family room couch, he jumped up and almost punched me in the face! His eyes were dark and menacing. Being deeply religious, I thought he seemed possessed at that moment.
- **Later that month, following a family argument over the phone, he drove his car off the road on his way home, crashing into the woods off of I-95.** He was still conscious after the crash and able to exit his car, walking onto I-95 where two cars hit him, causing his immediate death. The police report considered the accident to be intentional for a variety of reasons (no braking, his depressed mood in text messages, etc).
- **His postmortem toxicology screen was positive only for marijuana** (the THC level was 13 ng/ml). What we have learned since is that, in addition to impairing driving skills, marijuana can have severe mental health impacts, increasing the risk for depression, anxiety, paranoia and even sudden impulses that lead to self-harm. We believe his behavior prior to his death, and the behavior that resulted in his death, are clear evidence that what happened to Aaron was influenced by his marijuana use. **Marijuana changed our son from a happy-go-lucky teen into someone we no longer recognized.**
- We urge you to think about the negative impact legalizing marijuana will have on other youth in Maryland. **If you legalize, youth and young adults will believe it must be safe, and we are painfully aware that it is not.** You must vote your conscience rather than thinking about additional tax revenues that legalizing marijuana will bring to Maryland.