

Fighting for cannabis users,
growers, workers and their
families in the Free State.



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Statement by Rachel Ramone Donlan, Member of Maryland Marijuana Justice in support of HB1400

I'm writing today in support of HB1400; Cannabis - Legalization, Taxation and Regulation.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and I'm sorry that I'm too sick to attend.

I have one point that I'd like for you to consider, please. I am a small and fragile woman. I suffer from Ehlers Danlos and as a result, I also suffer from the condition trigeminal neuralgia, (TN). TN is nicknamed "the suicide disease" because over 50 percent of the patients kill themselves within two years of diagnosis.

Of course doctors have tried every form of treatment and medication over the years, but what I've found is that only cannabis stops my muscle spasms that aggravate and trigger my conditions. I feel less stress and distress. I can deal with some pain.

Women like me, that live alone with diseases like mine have been forced to turn to the illicit market for lifesaving cannabis. I have no choice.

Because home cultivation of cannabis has not been an option for me, I've been forced to turn to put myself in dangerous positions. I've had to meet strangers in their home and allow them in mine - which put me at risk. I've had to leave my home when I was sick. Very sick, weak, old, small and vulnerable. I've had to meet up in strange places with people online. That's why I'm completely uncomfortable with the illicit market. I've even been to the illegal pop up markets in Washington, DC where there have been shootings.

So please understand that if you are helping keep people safe from the illicit market by prohibiting home cultivation, I want you to know how backwards that logic seems to me. If home cultivation of cannabis were available for women like me, I would not have to go to the extreme of reaching out to the illicit market and putting my safety at risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

RachelRamone Donlan