

Support HB 925

Hello Madam Chairwoman, Madam vice chair and committee members.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am sharing my story in hopes of keeping others from going through what I went through. I live a chemical free lifestyle and that was very important to me during pregnancy. I was having some headaches and pelvic pain towards the end of my pregnancy. I was grocery shopping at my local MOM's Organic Market and saw a supplement for CBD oil. The store employee said it could be helpful with my headaches and pelvic pain so I bought some and started taking it daily. I bought it legally at a health food store and felt it was a safer option for my baby and I. I don't take Tylenol or any other over the counter medications or prescriptions. After I had my daughter at a hospital in Baltimore County, a staff member came into the room and told me that a social worker would be coming in to speak to me about my drug test. At this point, I wasn't even aware they had tested my urine for drugs and I told her that she must have the wrong person because I do not do drugs. The hospital found cannabinoids in my urine and the test they use does not differentiate between THC and CBD oil that does not contain THC. They tested my daughters urine and her first bowel movement and did not find any cannabinoids. I worked so hard to have a natural and epidural free labor and delivery because I felt that was safest for my daughter so to be accused of using drugs in pregnancy was awful. Child Protective Services opened up a case against me and they came to my home, every week for 4 weeks as well as forcing me to take my daughter to the pediatrician every week for 4 weeks. Her pediatrician is almost an hour drive and I had to do all that alone because my husband was working. When my daughter was 5 days old, I got mastitis which is a breast infection and I was very ill. I was extremely anxious and overwhelmed by it all. I feel that so much was expected of me after having a child and still recovering from that. I don't even drink alcohol and have never used drugs in my life so to be treated as if I was a drug addict and an unfit mother was devastating. The joy that was stolen from me is something that I will never get back. I am still working on healing the trauma that this has caused in my life.

This legislation would help to establish a work group to look into this issue and hopefully keep others from going through what I did,

Thank you for reading my testimony and I urge you to support this legislation.

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