

Greeting Judiciary Committee - thank you for your attention to this written testimony.

My name is Keisha Reed and I am not only a patient in the Maryland medical cannabis program but also the CEO of Explore Maryland Cannabis, a community membership and outreach organization whose mission is to build an informed cannabis community through education and access.

I'm writing in full support of HB0032, Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021). Let me explain why.

Cannabis has not only helped me connect and grow through some of the hardest challenges of life - the benefits of the plant's medicinal use in Maryland ripple through the 120,00 patients, businesses and education institutions in our state.

The Failed War on Drugs disenfranchised communities of color all over the country including our state - the effects still exist today.

HB0032 seeks to correct many of the systemic obstacles and end the prohibition of cannabis in our state.

With expungement of records for individuals affected by unfair policies, social equity for minorities and the formerly incarcerated and an earmark for community resources is the step forward.

In addition, I ask for passage with home cultivation for adults. Over a dozen medical cannabis programs allow this right for patients - they understand the importance of consistency in medicine for patients through this act.

Maryland's medical program is one of the top programs in the country - let's lead the way for progress and pass HB0032, Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

Thank you for your attention to this testimony. Stay safe and be well!