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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Whitney Fox, Progressive Maryland member, Anne Arundel County (D33)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

After decades of being undiagnosed, misdiagnosed and ignored for symptoms related to the genetic condition Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS) and the post-viral chronic illness myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), I finally received diagnoses and care, however neither condition has treatment options or cures. I first sought a doctor's recommendation on medical cannabis in 2018 after developing chronic, debilitating pain after an ankle injury and surgery. The physician told me that this type of pain is not normal and shouldn't be overlooked anymore and I was finally on the path to diagnosis and treatment. It has taken me countless doctors visits to find someone who believed me and properly diagnosed me. Unfortunately, the years of pushing through took a toll and I am now disabled, housebound, and have developed a handful of comorbid conditions including postural orthostatic intolerance syndrome (POTS), mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS), craniocervical instability (CCI), endometriosis, small fiber neuropathy, and primary immune deficiency.

Due to the severity of these illnesses, cannabis is one of the only treatments that alleviate my pain, boost my mood, and does not have devastating side effects. I've tried countless anti depressants, anti anxiety medications, pain medications and none have had a positive effect. Cannabis has drastically improved my quality of life. I am no longer bedbound due to endometriosis pain when I use cannabis. I am lucky to have access to this medicine and to be able to afford it, but we must make this treatment available and accessible to everyone and provide justice to those wrongly incarcerated. We must include people who have been adversely affected by the war on drugs in this growing industry. We must fund medical research to help patients like me effectively use cannabis as treatment without having to do years of trial and error. A recent study showed that cannabis was the most effective complementary therapy for treating pain associated with EDS: <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32909698/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32909698/</a>

Cannabis must be accessible and safe for everyone. Please support HB 32.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Suzanne M. Wright, Progressive Maryland Volunteer, Baltimore County (D8)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

From 1990 until 2008, I was a daily marijuana smoker without a single criminal incident. Due to the fact that I am allergic to alcohol, I used marijuana as a source to relax and unwind. Much like people have a beer or glass of wine. Sometimes I even used it to help me sleep and to also ease anxiety. Back when I was smoking marijuana, it was incredibly taboo. It wasn't legal even for medicinal use. I always wished I could sit at the bar while my friends drank and smoke a bit to unwind with them, but of course I faced jail time if I were to ever get caught doing that and jail is the last place I wanted to be.

I have always seen myself as an upstanding citizen in society. I've been a taxpayer since I was 16. I am now 46, so that's 30 years of paying into the system. I am a college graduate and have always worked hard no matter what position I have held. I never ever smoked on the job or drove under the influence. In fact, the only time I was caught, I was next to my car, which was parked in a parking garage because I was attending a music concert. Inside, my friends were allowed to drink alcohol and relax and listen to the music while I had to leave and go to my car and hide like a criminal. Well, I was caught smoking next to my car that night by 2 police officers. On me, I had 2 grams of marijuana. Luckily, I only got a citation to go to court but then had to spend 6 months on probation proving I wasn't an addict or a criminal, plus time away from work, and 100's of dollars in legal fees that would have otherwise gone right back into my community in one form or another. This was, and still is my only instance with getting in trouble with the law too. All because I just wanted to unwind and honestly was hot from being inside a stuffy venue and marijuana helped cool me off a bit. I was next to my car at setbreak at a concert in Richmond, VA, where I was residing at the time when the officers approached me. I wasn't even with anyone. I was just minding my own business taking a few hits off of my pipe before going back inside.

Honestly, I feel alcohol is more deadly and dangerous than marijuana. People can die from alcohol poisoning and have to detox from it too. It's because alcohol is a poison. Marujuana is a plant that is grown naturally. Also, it has proven since the early days of George Washington to be a profitable crop. I feel that using the entire plant for hemp, CBD products, medicinal use, and recreational use could be incredibly profitable for Maryland. Not only that but regulating sales of marijuana for recreational use



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can eliminate those incarcerated for selling this plant to people like myself who just like to enjoy a little here and there to relax. So not only will legalizing marijuana help with jail overcrowding but it will also help fund the state. I trust in the state to be able to regulate sales like they do with alcohol while allowing Marylanders the freedom to enjoy such a harmless plant.

I have never heard of a single person who has smoked or ingested marijuana commit homicide, a robbery, or other heinous crime. I'm pretty sure their biggest crime would be eating too many carbs from a snack attack or just falling asleep. I have never met anyone high on marijuana that was hateful towards others either. Alcohol can do some bad things to people like that. It can make them violent, where marijuana can make one completely mellow. It's been proven to be an incredible medicine too.

Now that it's pretty much legal for everything but recreational, it only makes sense to take the next step and legalize it altogether. We urge a favorable report on House Bill 32.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Dorine Jones, Progressive Maryland Volunteer, Howard County (D12)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I am a homeowner in Howard County, Maryland for 16 years. I am an Analyst and Realtor. I strongly agree with HB 32 in support of the legalization of Cannabis and in support of ending the racial injustice that exists in this state and the federal judicial system.

I am a bi-racial woman that has lived in Columbia for 16 years. I have been stopped by police officers 1 time in those 16 years. However, my son, grandson, ex-husband, friends have been stopped repeatedly. Often times if you come through Howard County, especially in the mall area, you will see vehicles pulled over. Almost every time, you will see a person(s) of color on the side, handcuffed and 4 to 8 Howard County policy SUV's/cars behind their vehicle. My son was getting out of his car 1 day, in front of his home and was told to get back in his car; where they then searched him and his car. When he asked why was he being searched and to get back in his car, the officer said there had been an incident and he fit the description. When he asked him, if the person had red hair? The officer replied and said NO. If he is a total red head, then why was he really stopped, as he clearly did not fit the description? Racial injustices have been going on my entire life and I have seen how they unfairly go after men of color; intimidate them, do illegal searches, looking for cannabis, or anything else, to give these young black men records. It separates them from their families, labels them and diminishes their ability to thrive and care for their families, for the rest of their life.

I am also in support of HB 32 for the following critical reasons:

- --We need to join the other 27 states that have seen already passed similar legislation and their states are seeing the tax advantages.
- --We need to join the other 27 states that already have a lower incidence of crime, since legalized.
- --We need to allow anyone 21 and over to legally possess and cultivate legal amounts.
- --Allow the legal thriving Cannabis industry to prosper and put the tax revenue back into the HBCU's or other worthy institutions in our community to protect and strengthen them.



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- --Allow the Cannabis Industry full recognition for the medicinal value and growth, over the pharmaceutical companies that push narcotics that have and continue to destroy our communities.
- --Free up law enforcement for more critical issues, like homicide, human trafficking, felonies, etc.
- --To include expungement and release for past cannabis offenses.
- --To provide start-up funding for social equity businesses and to serve communities impacted by poverty, mass incarceration and racism.

I truly believe this will be a game changer for Maryland and allow us to again be an example for the rest of the country. I think it will advance many of the above worthy causes and help our communities that have been victimized and so much more. For the above reasons and so many more, I feel that HB 32 is a MUST HAVE and CRITICALLY NEEDED in 2021 at this time and with this legislation. Please pass HB 32 because in your mind and heart you know it is the right thing to do. It is our time to move forward, leave the pass behind and hope and pray for better tomorrow.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Alfrieda Hylton, Progressive Maryland Volunteer, Prince George's County (D24)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I am a mother of four African American sons. Two of my older sons were driven from their jobs and families and pushed into the Federal prison system for "possession with intent to distribute" and both served approximately 16 years which contributes to racial and social class inequalities. As their mother, it was a revolving door of so much pain. It is time to stop the ineffective, racially biased, and unjust enforcement of marijuana prohibition in the State of Maryland. The criminalization of marijuana has been a mistake, and the racially disparate enforcement of marijuana laws has only compounded this mistake, with serious consequences, particularly for communities of color. The more people in jail, the fewer people contributing to the economy, and the more taxes spent on prison upkeep. The War on Marijuana has been a failure. It has torn apart families and communities, ruined individuals' lives, and acted as a vehicle for racial injustice.

Maryland marijuana arrests ensnared thousands of people in our state's criminal justice system. African American residents are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites. The fines that accompany these civil infractions can place a substantial burden on those fined, particularly the young and/or poor, groups that are disproportionately targeted by police. Besides, laws criminalizing marijuana impose the hardships of an arrest and arrest record, and often prison terms, on otherwise law-abiding people, who are disproportionately young, poor, and people of color. This bill could help to protect more Maryland residents from harm as well as help break this cycle of racial injustice. I encourage this committee to strengthen this bill with prohibitions on discrimination against people with marijuana-related convictions and with a pathway toward the expungement of those records. I also urge this committee to support this bill to mitigate these past injustices and prevent them from happening in the future.

We urge a FAVORABLE report on BILL NUMBER HB32.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Henry Farkas, MD, MPH, Progressive Maryland Member, Baltimore County (D11)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

Please give a positive vote for HB 32 which legalizes recreational marijuana usage. There are good reasons for this. The war on drugs has had severe unintended consequences. We have criminalized a huge number of young men of color for doing the same things that lots of young men without color did without having any consequences. That's because of police racism, which is another problem that the legislature should address.

Back to the war on drugs. I have to admit that when the war on drugs started, I was in favor of it, but I was wrong. It's time we all admit our error and adopt a new strategy. I understand that it's more difficult for the police to get drug users to turn in their suppliers when they can't be arrested for being users. So what we need to do is to adopt a free market strategy to eliminate the profit from being a drug pusher.

Instead of making it a crime for having paraphernalia or from using marijuana, we should do what we did with prohibition. Make marijuana legal, and inexpensive. If it's perfectly safe to go to a state-licensed marijuana store, there would be no reason to use a criminal organization as your marijuana supplier. If needle exchange and safe injection sites were available, then drug users would have access to a safe environment with safe paraphernalia. And they'd come in contact with people who could refer them for detox and rehab every time they used drugs.

More importantly, we wouldn't have an entire generation of young male felons who are marginalized for the rest of their lives. It would be nice if the young men of color who use drugs could have the same chance of redemption as do the young men without color who never get prosecuted for being drug users.

1. The bill applies only to adults over the age of 21 so it's unlikely to ruin the brains of juveniles. Clearly, juveniles will be able to get marijuana, but they can do that now. Now, when people buy recreational



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marijuana, the sales benefit organized crime. Reducing the cash flow for organized crime will make joining criminal organizations a less lucrative career choice.

- 2. The bill will reduce the number of criminals so the jails will be less overcrowded.
- 3. The bill will allow people to get their previous convictions expunged, at no cost to themselves, so it will increase the workforce and reduce unemployment. People who used to be unemployable because of flunking the background check will be able to pass a background check.

We urge a favorable report on HB32.



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# Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Eneshal Miller, Progressive Maryland Volunteer, Montgomery County (D14)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

One day I walked to the Safeway. A neighbor suggested I take a ride from her neighbor. He placed my 10 grocery bags into the back seat of his truck. We started to leave at the entry of the complex. The vehicle was pulled over by an officer, and I was arrested. I was instructed by the courts to adhere to urine testing weekly, for 3-6 months, I was never convicted of any crime.

I wrote the Attorney General and it was expunged after 3 years. This prevented me from work, and further my career as a daycare provider, it created so many issues for my family. This is happening way too often to black men, women and our youth. We are asking policy makers to support and re-invest in Black common ownership and policies that create opportunity for Black who have been targeted. Potential Black owned businesses are isolated from contribution as residents.

During my time living in Burtonsville and Silver Spring MD I joined the (FSS) Family Self Sufficiency Program in Montgomery County MD I wanted to invest in a home, the charge of marijuana prevented me from that opportunity, I was informed I could no longer participate and was removed from the program.

HB 32 Equitable Marijuana Bill is appropriate in addressing how racial inequality is used against black people way too often creating poverty, and for creating jobs, learning and crop production as a business owner. House bill 32 Equitable Marijuana Bill is needed to dismantle and root out these issues of marginalized communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report on HB32.



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# Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Pallas Bane, Progressive Maryland Volunteer, Prince George's County (D22)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I, a concerned Maryland resident, ask the Maryland House of Representatives to give a favorable report on HB32. Marijuana access under the current medical card system creates unequal standards based on someone's ability to pay \$200 for a card and another \$150-\$200 for an appointment with a Dr.

We have a two-tiered system where those with means can imbibe cannabis legally while poor residents must rely of dealers or second hand suppliers. This puts their health and safety at risk for no purpose.

Thank you for your time. We urge a favorable report on HB32.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Katherine Edwards, Progressive Maryland Member, Anne Arundel County (D30)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I currently work in the city of Annapolis as a police diversion program manager. In this position, as with the last 8 years of working in behavioral health, I have seen how the criminalization of cannabis has barred people from health services, workforce opportunities and housing. I believe all people, no matter their history or current substance use, should be able to access resources which empower them to lead healthy and happy lives. This points to the clear disparity in accessing legal green cards to legally use cannabis.

Many folks I worked with who were experiencing homelessness used cannabis but could not afford the expensive costs for doctors appointments and application fees. They truly wanted to abide by the law but could not afford to. This sets up an imbalanced system in which financially privileged residents are favored and those without excess finances are punished. I believe that my local elected officials will see the importance in following our sister states, New Jersey and Virginia, and legalize cannabis so our community can continue to build more equitable opportunities for all our residents.

Please take action today. We urge a favorable report on 32.



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#### Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: George Kohl, Progressive Maryland Member, Montgomery County (D20)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

My name is George Kohl. I am a retired, Montgomery County resident. My three children all attended public school in the county and I have lived here for 40 years.

It's time for marijuana legalization. There are other pressing public safety issues that marijuana enforcement should be taken off the list for our police forces. Those who have their lives stained with a marijuana arrest should be made whole.

Maryland has legalized gambling and alcohol. It's time marijuana join this list of "vices" whose consumption contribute tax dollars to the public good. Other states surrounding Maryland have begun to legalize and we should join them.

We urge a favorable report on HB32.



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# Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Joshua Fischer, Progressive Maryland Member, Montgomery County (D17)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I am in strong favor of HB32. I am 45 years old with severe chronic pain and muscle spasticity due to Cerebral Palsy, from birth. The access from cannabis has been a life saver, by providing me with much needed pain relief. Not only does this plant provide me with the much needed pain relief without the side effects but it allows me the ability face life's most physically demanding challenges.

Plain and simple, marijuana needs to be legal. This discussion about a safe plant is archaic. This plant isn't harmful in any way and yet our youth and adults alike are incarcerated for a "healing plant". Those people incarcerated should and must be released. It's shameful that predominantly our black and brown citizens are wrongfully targeted due to this medicine.

As stated previously because of my severe chronic pain, I cannot live without the safe access to this medicine and I urge you to pass House Bill 32.



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# Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee FROM: Amy Miller, Progressive Maryland Member, Baltimore County (D6)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I am a mother, grandmother, a cannabis patient, a caregiver for patients (some with chronic, painful illnesses) and now I have found a way to advocate for people in more ways. I have always been a cannabis advocate. I was diagnosed with PTSD three years ago, never having any idea I had been dealing with PTSD since I was old enough to make memories. Taking what I am learning about myself and the people I care for; I support cannabis as a natural treatment to improve life for people who suffer from chronic, acute or any disabling health issues.

As a cannabis patient I would like to have the option to grow my own cannabis on my own property at my liberty. I want to control the nutrients in the soil, the type of strain that I grow to help my medical illness or a strain that may not be available in the dispensary at a particular time. I want to help others if I am able to create cannabis strains for particular ailments or strains in organic soils for patients who have allergies. I should have the availability to get a license to make my services available to licensed cannabis patients. Opportunities for small and minority business owners should not be smothered out by big business trying to monopolize the cannabis industry.

We urge a favorable report on HB 32.



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# Testimony on Maryland House Bill 32: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation (Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)

TO: Del. Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: LaWann Stribling, Progressive Maryland Member, Prince George's County (D22)

DATE: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

POSITION: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 32. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story and my why it's so important to pass HB32 regarding the legalization, equity and decriminalization of cannabis for people of color, people that look like me. I am a Mom, Wife, Entrepreneur, Cannabis & Civil Rights Advocate.

I come to you as someone who benefitted and abused Cannabis as a young adult. For 11 years Cannabis helped me keep pushing through the depression I was dealing with being a homeless teen and single teen mom. It assisted with the push I needed to keep me focused to move on and receive my high school diploma to pursue dreams I had as a child. Throughout that process I realized that it was very helpful to disguise the internal pains I was hiding from. In 2007 I made a choice to stop using weed so I can deal with those pains the weed was helping to disguise. I put myself through therapy and found a new love for myself. I opened up a family-based home daycare, had more children and got married. Throughout those years I still found myself dealing with anxieties and not knowing how to relax. With all our kids and the daycare our house was extremely busy. I was never fond of alcohol or pills so when I was hearing that we can get a medical marijuana license I had a talk with my husband to see how he felt about me using Cannabis again. He said sure try it and see especially if it will help me stop barking at the kids.

This was the very best decision for me as an adult. So much research had been done over the past 11 years that I went fully in to learn more about Cannabis. I began with edibles but didn't care for the edible selections. So I started to make my own and when I tell you that my made from scratch medibles were amazing!

I started to research how I could apply to be a producer as a way to build generational wealth for our family. So here I am reading over the application and all my joys and excitement turned into sadness. I couldn't even afford the process for step 1. I thought to myself, how is this fair? We've been arrested, murdered and traumatized over weed for years and the only way we can earn money legally in this



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industry is to have capital of at least 250k. As someone who has bootstrapped her life to where it is now was super discouraging.

With that I found a work around as a registered caregiver but you're limited to 5 clients. With Hope and Faith this plant that saved my life on more than 1 occasion will be what brings wealth to our family. I believe that times are changing and hopefully the elected officials will truly see the benefits in this amazing plant.

We opened our bakery for one to share my love of baking and cooking but to also showcase the beauty in cannabis. It's our goal to bring canna infused confections to all our citizens in Maryland and passing HB32 will allow that opportunity for my family as well as others who fully believe in the cannabis plant. I'd like to legally grow my own and produce medibles, creams, oils and tinctures. Strib'ble Treats Homemade Sweets is a family owned traditional confectionary that specializes in cannabis infusions. It's important for us to showcase the beauty and medicinal qualities of cannabis to help end the negative stigma attached to it. Canna Women DC was created to help our community understand Cannabis. To not feel ashamed about using it and to educate our community how to legally obtain your ability to use Cannabis at home.

It's time and I thank you! We urge a favorable report on HB32.