



Luke Jones, Director
Maryland NORML
Luke.MDNORML@gmail.com

750 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(202) 285-3199

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**SUPPORT HB0032: Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation
(Inclusion, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Act of 2021)**

I live in Silver Spring with my wife and our two children – I am a citizen volunteer and this testimony reflects the views of the majority of Maryland citizens, not just cannabis consumers.

People who consume cannabis and cannabis products have unique and essential perspectives on the state’s long-standing prohibition policy, and we have a specific set of goals associated with the state’s approach to legalization.

HB0032 satisfies all major concerns raised by the cannabis consumer community and should be adopted this legislative session. Specific policy priorities raised by consumers are: ending marijuana-related police encounters and arrests; establishing a right to cultivate personal use amounts of cannabis at home for non-commercial purposes; market access for small businesses, including cottage industry and other micro-businesses; arrest record expungements; and targeted investments to repair some of the damage caused by marijuana prohibition.

Using police officers and the courts to punish adults who produce their own cannabis at home for personal non-commercial purposes is bad public policy and tramples on the principles of liberty and personal freedom. Our laws should not *require* citizens to purchase a product they are capable of producing for themselves.

To avoid the prospect of citizens growing plants in quantities beyond what might be needed for limited, non-commercial personal purposes, aspiring business owners need access to the legal market. The laws should facilitate safe business practices, not establish artificial monopolies. We need broad market participation, not market concentration.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB0032 as amended and forward with a favorable recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luke Jones, Maryland NORML

DISCLOSURE: Maryland NORML has no paid staff – we are entirely energized by more than 5,000 Maryland citizens committed to ending marijuana prohibition and establishing a regulated cannabis commercial market for adults who choose to use marijuana responsibly. We submit this testimony on behalf of our membership, their families, and other Marylanders who want to see harm reduction policies that will establish a more just and inclusive society. I do not now and never have had any stake or investment of any kind in any cannabis enterprise, (nor does anyone in my family) and have never received any fee or remuneration for consulting with any cannabis enterprise.