

**TESTIMONY FOR HB0032
CANNABIS LEGALIZATION (INCLUSION, RESTORATION, AND REHABILITATION
ACT OF 2021**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Lewis

Committee: Judiciary

Person Submitting: Pamela Bell, MSN, RNC-MNN
35 East All Saints St, Unit 302
Frederick 21701

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0032.

The Bill provides much needed, comprehensive legislation on cannabis legalization and regulation.

Especially important, the Bill provides funding for “evidence-based, voluntary programs for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse”, education for young people and adults on safety risks of all substances, and scientific, academic, or medical research” to evaluate uses and benefits.

It is imperative to remove the stigma of cannabis consumption. Prohibition and punitive laws are not effective, increase the burden on our criminal justice system, amplify social and racial injustice issues, and increase the likelihood of unsafe use.

I support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.