

Supporting HB0488- I am in support of HB0488, Use of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance - De Minimis Quantity - Delegate Moon - Judiciary Committee

I agree with efforts to lessen the disparate punitive measures that are being applied to use and possession of certain de minimis quantities of marijuana and other certain controlled dangerous substances. This bill is one of those efforts and would make certain violations a civil offense rather than a misdemeanor, among other things.

This bill doesn't condone the use of marijuana; it merely is applying less severe penalties, which in the end is a move towards criminal justice reform and equity since we know that punitive marijuana possession and use laws are being applied disproportionately to our black and brown communities. Once a person gets a record, there are the cascading effects of the record reducing access to affordable housing, education benefits and job prospects, which leads to even more inequity. Long sentence, but I hope my point is clear.

Respectfully,  
Renee Cantori  
Annapolis, MD