

I am writing you today to voice my unfavorable opinion towards HB1. I am a medical cannabis patient registered with the MMCC, and have been using cannabis under the supervision of multiple doctors for the past year. To be clear, I am 100% in favor of full legalization, criminal expungement, and recreational use, but I do not think HB1 is the fair and equitable way.

Without the legalization of personal cultivation of cannabis, this bill will do nothing more than line the pockets of corporations already selling cannabis for profit in the state of Maryland. These companies do not have the consumer's best interest in mind; their main goal is to make a profit, just like every other business in this country. By restricting patient and consumer access to cannabis grown by companies, you are effectively pricing out many of the consumers and patients that need cannabis the most. This bill attempts to remedy the war on cannabis by expungement and focusing on diversity, but how many low income/marginalized communities do you think can afford to pay \$65 for an amount of cannabis that would last someone just a few days? Can a plant truly be legalized if it's still a crime to plant it?

The magic of cannabis is that it is a plant that you can grow from seed, in dirt, just like every other plant that gardeners across Maryland grow. The dangers of growing cannabis are akin to the dangers of growing tomatoes. It has been cultivated globally for millennia, and grows wild in many parts of the planet.

The SB833 entitled "Cannabis – Legalization and Regulation", much better addresses the full scope of legalization, and allows for the personal cultivation of 4 plants. Please think of more than just the corporate cannabis industry when deciding on the future of such an important milestone in our state's history. The people of Maryland deserve the freedom and right to grow a legal plant in the safety of their own home.

Regards,  
Alex Kahan