

## **UNFAVORABLE on HB1342**

vince mcavoy baltimore maryland

In testimony in the House Judiciary, regarding legalization and liberalization of drug laws, a teenager once-addicted to marijuana said this

“I was never a religious or spiritual person,  
but I started realizing people have a soul.

And I realized I lost mine to marijuana.

This is a REAL thing; people don't talk about it oftentimes.

This is silently affected a lot of youth...this legislation is going to create a lot more cases like mine...."

Jordan Davidson, former marijuana addict

Testimony in House Judiciary

Legalization of a drug which intoxicates and alters perception of mental and physical faculties works to destroy society. It lessens the heights to which mankind can achieve. This teenager's testimony mirrored that of others giving testimony in House Judiciary in 2021. There, emergency room doctors, neuroscientists, parents of child-addicts and others gave testimony of suicide attempts, addiction, prostitution geared toward getting weed, as well as marijuana-caused car accidents and deaths.

A Colorado mom discussed leaving her area because the smoke & smell was “everywhere we go”. She complained about predatory profiting on marijuana edibles in use by 8th graders.

About dabs causing emergency room visits and suicide attempts. About how children she saw graduating from marijuana as a gateway drug to other drugs such as “meth”.

Legalization opens a Pandora's Box which will cost humans much in pain and death. Other locations such as Canada and Colorado are experiencing this pain and are backtracking their legalization laws.

Legalization was to be the magic unicorn to eliminate all types of issues from backpain to black market drugs to taxes to reducing arrests.

Each of these arguments have been up-ended by the facts after legalization/liberalization of drug laws. In California and Oregon, there are rampant illicit markets. It's gotten so bad the Governor of Oregon has declared state of emergency. Sin taxes never pay off; we found that with the gambling taxes which were supposed to pay off school funding.

The Speaker and others are using the words “Black Agenda” in connection with – what – engineering & jobless rates?

No, DRUGS and VIOLENT CRIME.

Thirty years of living in Baltimore City tells me you talk to agendists and opportunists, not real people, if you're someone who equates blacks with drug use. Blacks hate the crime that riddles their neighborhoods due to (primarily fatherlessness and) declining morals, endemic among drug users.

So many people talk about “black and brown” being represented by drug use. Or arrests from drugs. Each year, a host of domestic violence bills come to House Judiciary.

What are the #1 & #2 indicators for prevalence of domestic violence?

**Drugs** and same sex partner violence, noted by NIH, confirmed by CDC.

Addiction And Domestic Violence

<https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/domestic-violence/>

A Review of Same Sex Intimate Partner Violence

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6113571/>

Drugs, crime and domestic violence is not what should define “black and brown”.

If this is what people tell you blacks and Hispanics discuss as needs, try speaking to people in those communities (as I do) who have jobs and are ardently trying to raise & protect their children in a world you lawmakers have brought about where 8 year olds end up in REHAB in Baltimore City. EIGHT!

There's been no “war on drugs” because if there WAS a war, the fighters of that war wouldn't tolerate teens in Drug REHAB.

Year after year people get arrested – and honestly folks, if you get arrested for smoking dope in Baltimore, you don't have 2 brain cells to rub together – because they are impudent in their use of drugs and behavior on drugs. Drugs can lead to that behavior, true. The truth is there is not an attack on people with marijuana. It is issues with how these particular people behave and then drug use/possession may be amongst their arrestable charges when confronted about behavior. These are not going to be found to be productive citizens striving to produce. Instead, they're striving to mistreat their personal issues with constant intoxication.

You're not thinking of children when you bring these bills. Kids will taunt others with a “legal” substance – I place in quotes because it is Federally-declared as an ILLEGAL substance – and children who would otherwise avoid the temptation will give in due to peer pressure.

Our students and our children deserve better than this bill.

For real, for real, the children will pay the price of this ridiculous effort to legalize drugs.