

## *HB1 Testimony in Opposition*

SB692 legalizes cannabis on July 1, 2022. We've already waited many years for the State of Maryland to repeal the prohibition of cannabis. We have a moral obligation to correct the injustice of prohibition without any further delay. Continuing arrests for another year is unconscionable.

Legalizing cannabis will benefit the Maryland economy in many ways including tax revenue, economic development and cost savings in criminal justice and health care. The hundreds of millions of dollars of economic damage caused by delay would be fiscal malpractice.

Medical cannabis patients need home grow to have access to their medicine at reasonable cost and have access to medicine that is not commercially practical. The average medical patient spends over \$3000 per year. Home grow can cut that expense by 80%. Delaying home grow to medical patients is heartlessly cruel.

You don't need a referendum to know that legalization of cannabis has broad public support. I urge you to work with the Senate to cross file SB0692 and enact full legalization this session, including home grow. Del. Clippinger has stated that he wants the most equitable solution implemented rapidly. We are not just on path to allowing adult use. We are repealing prohibition. Please table these bills and fully support cannabis legalization in the most rapid and most equitable manner.

#LegalizeMD!

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