



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chairman
and Members of the Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: **HB 0001** – Constitutional Amendment to Legalize Adult Use of Cannabis – **OPPOSED**
HB 0837 – Cannabis Reform – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly opposes HB 0001 Constitutional Amendment to Legalize Adult Use of Cannabis and HB 0837 that would legalize adult use and possession of 2.5 ounces of cannabis (marijuana) and remove criminal penalties currently in law.

Marijuana is a gateway drug to more powerful and deadly drugs. Its potency (the amount of THC in marijuana, the ingredient that produces the high) has been increasing steadily since the 1970s – 20-25% THC today compared to less than 2% in the 1970s. Stronger marijuana is more addictive. Daily use can cause paranoia and lead to violence. More frequent use can increase the violence 4-5 times.

A report by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) states that the number of young people who believe regular marijuana use is risky is decreasing, and surmises that legalization could continue that trend. Research has shown that marijuana can impact brain development, resulting in impairment of thinking, memory and learning functions.¹

The brain continues to develop until about age 25. Toxicology reports from Colorado, where marijuana is legal, revealed that marijuana was the most common substance found in teenagers who died by suicide in 2020. There was a 25% increase in suicides among Colorado veterans compared to the prior two years.

Maryland has a severe addiction problem with large numbers of people losing their lives every year to overdoses. We see no benefit from the legalization of marijuana. Please give HB 0001 and HB 0837 an **UNFAVORABLE** Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman

1. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>