

My name is Mark Marchione and I am a native Marylander. I served in the US Navy, retired as a Top Gun fighter pilot, and then was an international commercial airline Captain during the rest of my career. I have seen drug policies both liberal and conservative all over the world. I am an Unaffiliated left leaning liberal.

I have read and examined every word of this bill. I have read numerous books, medical articles and studies about cannabis.

You might wonder why I care. I have a son who used marijuana and I at first thought it was benign and a right of passage he would grow out of. I had a beautiful, intelligent, athletic and gifted son. He now is mentally ill with cannabis induced schizophrenia. We have no family history of schizophrenia in our family. Zero. The cannabis industry has everyone convinced there is nothing wrong with cannabis and THC. But it is a drug. It took me 10 years to figure this out. In 10 years Maryland will be a different state as people figure

out that THC needs serious regulation. Not HB 556.

This bill is written in a way to make Maryland a narco state. It is written by the cannabis industry to protect the industry and expand its use. I do not see many protections for Marylanders.

P. 13 Cannabis Public Health Fund - 1.5% is woefully short. The cost will be in the billions as even more people develop mental illness. A stay at Spring Grove State Hospital is around \$850 a night. And Spring Grove is closing in a few years. We are losing 400 psychiatric beds when we will need more. Just wait for a few years until cannabis use is even more widespread. There will be more mentally ill living on the streets like Vancouver and San Francisco with more violence and assaults.

This bill prevents local jurisdictions from stopping where dispensaries can be opened or control the traffic that flows to them. This bill will allow a cannabis drug dispensary to open next door to elementary and high schools.

At a minimum I would like to see more healthcare protections. The healthcare fund should be drastically increased from 1.5% of tax receipts. The costs to the state of this bill will far exceed all the tax receipts from cannabis sales.