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My name is Michael Ernest and a long time resident of Maryland. I am a retired scientist who has negative opinions about cannabis legalization. I recognize that the legislation has passed, but not without a significant number in opposition.

My concerns are health, safety related as well as the revenue allocation. I was exposed to second hand tobacco smoke in my youth, but never was tempted to experiment with it. I am grateful that regulations have helped curb smoking and helped prevent exposure to it in public. I feel strongly the same about cannabis usage.

I will list my concerns based on what I read in this proposed legislation.

I would hope any regulation already existent with regards to tobacco and alcohol use be equally applied to cannabis regardless of the form.

I am very much concerned with children of all ages in a household that use cannabis will be unduly exposed to it as second hand smoke, vapor or vaping. Special concern that edible versions might be viewed as candy and other forms directly consumed.

Putting age limits on purchase has limited effectiveness in keeping out of the hands of minors as it underestimates the cleverness of minors in acquiring a restricted substance as we all know that occurs with cigarettes, vaping and alcohol.

Severe penalties should be established for sellers not fully implementing age restrictions and should include suspension and, or loss of license plus fines.

Penalties with teeth should be established in connection with use multiple family dwellings like apartments, in public, driving a motor vehicle much like that of alcohol. Need to establish some quantitative detection device analogous to breathalyzers.

Any committees established should consist of an equal number of reputable professionals health care representation.

I disagree with the small allocation of revenues slated for healthcare which understates the addictive nature of this new "recreation". Metrics should be included as an important part of the legislation especially to determine if the allocation for health related outcomes is not costing taxpayers beyond the allocation of revenues.

Further more the large allocation and grants for social equity is blatant nonsense in my opinion.

Personally, for the life of me I cannot comprehend the state endorsing an addictive product which will

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likely be consumed for the most part by inhalation when so much effort and promotion has been put into reducing cigarette smoking.

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