

Bill #SB516 Title: Cannabis Reform/ The Senate Finance Committee/ March 9, 2023

Letter of Information

My name is Sarah Price and I live in Sharpsburg, MD. A few years ago, my son Eli was a happy young man, raised in an attentive, Christian home in a close-knit farming community. He was an "A" student, rebuilt his own Mercedes car engine, was hard-working, self-driven, and mature. About a year and a half ago, he first got marijuana joints from a fellow student at Boonsboro High School. When we found out, we expressed our concern and Eli said, "I'm not going to do anything addictive!" Eli had no mental condition or risk factors. Now he puffs THC dabs all day, every day and has become addicted.

We've offered education and treatment and have imposed restrictions to reduce his use; we limited his privacy, his car, Wi-Fi, and his driver's license. But his THC use only spiraled deeper and deeper. As a result of using THC, Eli started to fail his high school classes, lost many friends, no longer worked in his car shop, and has become just a shell of the fun-loving boy we used to know. He lost weight, had no ambition, and became withdrawn. Everyone who knows my son can't believe what has happened to this kid with so much promise. His sole focus now is to get high, and he believes that since marijuana is legal (or will be), it must be safe. He is a BHS senior getting THC from fellow classmates and from dealers outside of school. They use TikTok and other social media apps to "advertise." Kids are dabbing THC in school all day long, right in the classrooms. 18-year-old seniors are using their medical cannabis cards to sell it to younger kids.

Just a few weeks ago my son turned 18. He wanted to continue his THC use. He knows our rules of having a sober home and he decided to move out. This is a nightmare; it cuts through my heart like a knife. I hurt so bad that I feel like I'm drowning. I am so deeply sad and angry about what this has done to our children and their future.

My son, and others, are the victims of a predatory, for-profit marijuana industry. There should be a minimum age of 25 which is when the brain is more fully developed. Most importantly, there should be a THC potency cap (like Vermont and Connecticut). I know other families who have lost children due to marijuana.

The other night my husband prayed to God... "please, make it hard for my son to get the drugs, put obstacles in his path." If you're reading this story, YOU can be that obstacle. Today's marijuana is a dream-killer, it's too un-regulated, and killing our kids. Why is this allowed to happen? Please help to save our young people's lives!

Sarah Price,
Sharpsburg, MD dsprice4@gmail.com