

HB0135 Unfavorable  
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I request an unfavorable report for HB1135.

The people have spoken. It is time to end the War on Drugs. Section 5-612 of the Maryland code is the war on drugs. Instead of making an exception for cannabis, we should repeal the entire section. Cannabis is proof that prohibition as a public policy tool doesn't work. Kingpin laws inherently can be effectively enforced. There only purpose is to be a tool in the war on drugs.

The war on drugs has been corrupt from day 1. The Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 was passed over the objection of the AMA at the behest of commercial interests threatened by the invention of the decorticator. The year after the Supreme Court ruled the act unconstitutional, the Nixon administration created the controlled substances act. Per John Ehrlichman we now know the real reason for placing heroin and cannabis on schedule 1 was the intent to harass the hippies and the blacks. He said "Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did!" What justifies the continuation of those lies?

Criminal penalties for selling cannabis in violation of regulations should be on par with penalties for tobacco or alcohol regulations instead of on par with selling heroin. This bill is re-authorizing the war on drugs, but all it does is move the front lines. What different results do you expect? How many exceptions do we have to make before we realize that "the war" is more dangerous than the drugs. The people have spoken. Sooner or later this war will end. We need a new policy of education and support to replace prohibition.

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Thank you,  
Rusty Carr