



Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
HB1071 Criminal Procedure - Reasonable Suspicion
and Probable Cause - Cannabis

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Crutchfield
Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Executive Committee
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1071 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Reasonable Suspicion and Probable Cause for Cannabis prevents a determination of reasonable suspicion or probable cause (for searches) based solely on the odor of cannabis and other circumstantial evidence. We believe this bill is necessary after Maryland courts have ruled differently on stop and search procedures for marijuana.

We agree with Senator Carter's assessment of her similar bill in the Senate—SB0051— that this legislation would reduce the opportunities for officers to conduct racial profiling. We also agree with the ACLU of Maryland of the need to limit police interactions that have led to too many horrible outcomes.

We conclude that it is unnecessarily to subject a person to over policing in response to a smell or a mere hunch of possession a criminal amount of cannabis. We ask that the Committee issue a favorable report on HB1071.