



THE SHRIVER CENTER

Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

March 9, 2023

House Bill 1071 - Criminal Procedure - Reasonable Suspicion and Probable

Cause - Cannabis

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Shriver Center at UMBC supports HB 1071, sponsored by Delegate Crutchfield. We urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

The Shriver Center's mission is to address critical social challenges by bridging campus and community through engaged scholarship and applied learning. The Shriver Center is the institutional home of the Truth Racial Healing and Transformation Center. As such, we are committed to dismantling white supremacy by implementing anti-racist practices in our programs, initiatives, and organizational processes. Specifically, through our social justice-oriented approach we are disrupting the historical and present repercussions of racism.

The Shriver Center is also the institutional home of The Choice Program. For more than 35 years, Choice has served as a youth mentoring program, largely as an alternative to detention. Maryland's legal system disproportionately ensnares Black and Latinx young people, limiting their life chances in education, vocation, civic engagement, and health and wellbeing. A punitive criminal justice system does not offer young people developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive interventions; it exacerbates stubborn inequities. And, it does not keep Marylanders safer. This session offers the chance to remake our legal system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities for all Marylanders including the young people we serve.

We are concerned that the odor of a soon-to-be legal substance should not be used as a pretext for the search of a person or their vehicle. After a stop or vehicle search, it is impossible for officers to prove that they did, in fact, smell marijuana. As such, law enforcement has been given a blank check to conduct spurious searches. Odor search claims are not only highly used, but highly abused. Odor searches facilitate racial profiling. Odor Searches permit needless escalations during routine traffic enforcement and puts youth at risk.

The Shriver Center at UMBC respectfully urges this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1071.