

Harold Morris III
D.O.B7 /28/88
CASE# 12-K-17-154
DOC#474-175/SID#2776241
1-20-2023

Cannabis Reform In support of HB135

Maryland Legislatures,

We the great state of Maryland has overwhelmingly approved question 4, making us now the state to legalize cannabis for adult use and now our legislatures who represent the people are fully compelled to decrease the gap between the superior and inferior. This year, this hour is the time to take direct action against inequality, injustice and oppression. It is in plain sight that the superior can purchase the privilege to manufacture, distribute, and dispense a controlled dangerous substance while the inferior ^{one} is prosecuted to the maximum extent by our courts for the same legal offense. "We cannot legislate morality," but we can put limits and parameters on our courts. To execute or subjugate our people with criminal statutes that are almost half-century-old is unjust.

Currently, under Maryland criminal code S; 5-613 drug kingpin statute, a person found guilty of this statute must receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years, which can cap out at a maximum sentence of 40 years without parole. We have to ask ourselves, does this destructive method justify the destructive end? Does this half-century-old statute bring balance and justice to our great state? This is not warranted for a kingpin crack dealer, or a kingpin heroin dealer, but not cannabis. Cannabis is a legal substance and it should be treated as though it is. There must be a difference distinguished in courtrooms between cannabis kingpins and kingpins for other controlled substances. When this statute was enacted in 1989 the infamous "war on drugs" was being waged and failed. Today, no one should be receiving a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years for cannabis. These mandatory minimum-sentencing policies unfairly take the discretion from Judges to tailor a sentence that fits the individual. If the 20-year mandatory minimum was removed from the statute, if the sentencing Judge has the need to sentence a defendant to a larger sentence the judge could, but to bind the Judges hands forcing them to impose a minimum sentence of 20-years is unjust. HB 135 brings balance to our judiciary system and must be implemented without hindrance or opposition.

Thank you David Moon, and all of the legislatures who through tireless effort and persistent justice, equality and equal opportunity to the great state of Maryland. Thank you making good the promise of democracy proving that "the bank of justice is not bankrupt". I pray that you continue your work, staying open minded along the way just as our wonderful president Joe Biden did with Jeffrey Epstein sparing no expense to bring our sister home to her family. In the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Let freedom reign.

Much love,
Your prisoner,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s American Dream
1/4th 1965