

Hb 346 is a major step forward, to reform, rather than unnecessary punishment.

This bill ends 40 year sentencing, with mandatory minimum sentencing of 20 years without parole, for non violent marijuana offenses.

To give an individual 40 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years without parole, for anything non violent, is draconian.

Hb 346, still has effective sentencing, of up to 20 years, for non violent marijuana distribution, which is enough.

If passed , judges will have the ability to sentence individuals according to their crime, weather it was violent or non violent.

If not passed, sentences will remain a one size fits all mandatory minimum, classifying non violent, with violent as one.

My son Harold J Morris III, was sentenced to 20 years without parole, for a nonviolent marijuana offense.

He has been sent to a prison, in a population of mostly violent criminals, because classification is determined by time, not the nature of the crime.

My son waited 2 years for trial, and didn't count on getting a 20 year sentence, without parole.

From day one, he had served God, and had taken his family to church every Sunday, and prayed that he would be able to remain with his family.

Being said, the thought of doing 5 to 10 years, is enough to reform someone.

I have thousands of signatures, from people online and in person, who believes that no one should do 20 years in prison, for a nonviolent marijuana offense.

Through my years of advocacy, I'm convinced, that the majority of people agree with this bill.

To oppose this bill, would only keep nonviolent marijuana offenders in a cage, to serve just as much time as violent criminals, and remain classified as such, and to be re-entered into society institutionalized, as my son would be in his 50s and his children in their 30s, when released.

So, I ask this committee, please think about it, and do whats right, by voting in favor for house bill 346, crossed with Senate bill 404.

God bless you, and thank you.