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*Legislative District 28*  
Charles County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Chair*

Charles County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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RE: HB441 Criminal Law - Cannabis-Related Offenses - Civil Penalties

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary,

In November the legislature took the bold step of presenting the legalization of adult-use cannabis as a referendum. Marylanders overwhelmingly supported the legalization of cannabis in our state. They entrusted us to create the framework for legalization. It is our responsibility at this time to do our part in addressing mass incarceration, minimizing police interactions, pretextual police stops, loss of employment, excessive fines, and loss of generational wealth which has debilitated over-policed neighborhoods related to the use and possession of cannabis. This bill aims to replace criminal penalties with alternatives of reasonable fines, rehabilitation programs, or community service. Centering our citizens safety and quality of life are the focal points for this proposed legislation. I submit to you that if these policies and practices of incarceration and excessive fines continue, we have failed. I have attached for your reference the Racial Impact Note from last year bill and the Fiscal Note.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 441.

Sincerely,

*Debra Davis*

Delegate Debra Davis, Esq.