



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Senator

Support SB0708 - Cannabis - Legalization and Regulation

As your constituent I am writing to ask your support for SB0708 - Legalization of Marijuana.

This legislation would legalize marijuana use for adults in Maryland, as well as providing safe regulations comparable to those for liquor sales. It would also provide tax revenue dedicated to health, safety, education and the general fund. This tax revenue might otherwise flow to Virginia which also voted this year to legalize marijuana.

Alcohol prohibition's repeal resulted in huge drops in crime and law enforcement costs. This bill will bring the same needed changes for marijuana, which scientific studies have found on the whole less dangerous than alcohol.

Another serious problem with marijuana's criminal status involves systemic racism. While studies show that white and black Americans use the drug at similar rates, blacks are arrested, charged, and incarcerated at multiple times greater rates than whites. One estimate is that 88% of all marijuana possession arrests are made against blacks. The resultant discriminatory economic and social costs to families and communities are unacceptable and should be eliminated.

The number of people currently incarcerated in our prisons and detention centers for marijuana possession is alarming. Here we have an opportunity to put an end to this discriminatory law and put marijuana to use as a tax revenue resource for Maryland.

For more information please see <https://www.ma4jr.org/marijuana/>

I would like to know if you will support this legislation. Or if you have concerns and questions. Please let me know.

Sincerely,