

02/25/21

Hello,

I am writing today in response to Bills 0638 and HB1291 the same. Bill 0638 as well as HB1291 concern me deeply. I feel that until the contradictive policies concerning Medical and Recreational Marijuana and the State and Federal level are resolved these two Bills are completely wrong. I'm a full lifetime, 50-year-old resident of Maryland, business owner, husband, and father of two collegiate young adults. I've been and still am an avid firearm shooter since learning at the Marriotsville Gun Club when in grade school. I started purchasing my own firearms after high school, shotguns for hunting first and continued on from there. At age sixteen I was involved in a car accident in which I was partially ejected through the windshield, face first. This accident would dictate much of my life from there on. Fortunately for me, although I was in physical discomfort while younger, the full repercussions from the accident didn't catch up with me for about fifteen years. In 2002, after bouncing through a dozen doctors and therapists, it stood that I needed a triple level cervical fusion. A procedure that would only lead to further spinal complications later on, so the procedure was not performed. In 2005 I fortunately took part in a product test study and received a synthetic disc in the center of my "triple level" disc problem between C4 and C5. A successful surgery gave me some relief for a few years. I was back under the knife in 2010 for a C6 to C7 fusion. Those surgeries plus a right ankle surgery in 2007, also contributed to my 1988 accident have come with a more-than-half-a-lifetime of significant pain and discomfort. Starting in 2002 trusted doctors began prescribing me opioids for pain management. A legal regiment of these pills were in addition to regular pain management procedures such as rhizotomies and shots galore. While still a legal firearm owner and operator, the opioids I took could have emotional effects as well. Most often it would manifest as a hopped up angry feeling, in which case I would have to manage my temper away from my family. In addition to these occurrences, the continual opioid intake and subsequent increase in dosage to compensate for increased tolerance over time began a "dumbing down" of me and my persona. Struggling to find words and slurred speech was becoming more the norm, in addition to depression. Not to mention the effects I endured if I missed a dose, which began to happen due to new policies of opioids not being kept on hand at pharmacies. Proud to say that, at the urging of my wife, at beginning of 2018 I started my several month weening off of opioids. I've been off for a year and a half now and feel better mentally than I have since college. However, in order to deal with the massive amounts of pain I'm still dealing with I have opted to get a MD Medical Marijuana Card. Now I have to deal with the nonsensical situation of not being able to legally purchase a firearm. The opioids that the pharmacies supplied me made me and on a regular basis, yet I was still a "legal" firearm buyer. Now instead of harmful opioids I'm using marijuana, a drug in which I've NEVER felt any anger while under its influence, and now I can no longer purchase a firearm. It's contradictory. I feel that this situation needs to be fixed at the Federal and State level before more State laws be enforced.

Thank you,

Daniel Dreiband