

*Patrice Little Murray*  
*15010 Jerimiah Lane*  
*Bowie, Maryland 20721*  
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Senate Finance Committee

I am Patrice Little Murray, a lifelong Maryland resident. Thank you for allowing me the time to express my opinions as you consider legislation that will affect my, and ultimately your community.

Today I come in opposition of Senate Bill 537, Cannabis – Licensee Locations – Restrictions. As you will gather, my vote did not count among those in favor of legalizing ‘cannabis’. I feel there are enough vices that have been legalized that effect the wellbeing of, not only the children that are directly exposed to them in their neighborhoods, but those who go to school, scouts, and church, with them. This means my children **and** yes, your children also.

I have to move beyond the fact that you, as a governing body, did not use your power to stop the legalization of cannabis – and let’s get real – call it what it is – marijuana, because changing the name does not change the outcome. What I have to do today is try to keep it out of my neighborhood.

I oppose this bill because

- ...“UNDULY BURDEN” In my county, appropriate zoning is a requirement. I can’t open a dog pound next to my local grocery store even if we had a local store.
- A political subdivision may not impose... fees or licensees that are burdensome nor establish zoning that “they” feel is unduly burdensome. Yet I cannot have a dog without a license and am required to have them vaccinated. Nor can I drive a truck through the Baltimore tunnels carrying certain flammable liquids.
- My elected representatives can not even prevent license conversion. Which means every smoke/vape/or even gas station would be able to sell marijuana!

I could go on but I think you get where I’m coming from. It looks to me that marijuana licensees would have more rights and the backing of the members of this body than the voters themselves.

I am asking that you consider the effects of this substance, that you consider whom it will harm. I am asking you to think of Your children and the harm it may cause them.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your opposition of SB 537.