

Good day, Human Services committee of the Senate of North Dakota!

My name is Joseph M. Dura, and I write this testimony as a citizen of the state of North Dakota, and I do not write this with the support, nor allegiance to any organization which may hold some vested interest for this bill. My hope in writing this testimony is that I may be able to give some kind of insight on what your average middle-class individual thinks regarding this bill. Before I start, I would like to apologize if I come across as rather crass or inconsiderate! The nature of HB 1420, at least in current form, as was accepted by the North Dakota House of Representatives, is for lack of better words... Restrictive.

Upon reading the bill, I find myself agreeing with the idea of legalizing marijuana statewide, but I do not agree at all with the current methods being outlined. The current restrictions such as the individual adult user not being allowed to grow their own marijuana plants seems almost comical in a state with such a great deal of its economy being based in agriculture. Furthermore, the financial burden on the consumers with astronomical prices which do not even include taxes leads me to question if the legalization process is doomed to fail.

These issues that I mention have in fact been also noted in testimonies by other individuals. Jason Wahl made mention of the current restrictions being heavy handed in comparison to medical marijuana in Document No. 6683. Jody Vetter made note of the lack of home cultivation in No. 5208. Carl E. Young also did the same in No. 5097.

It should be clear that North Dakotans desire change within this bill. Many of us wish for the ability to grow what we ingest, in order to ensure the best quality. Another thing which is of vested economic interest is opening the market in such a way where growing operations can remain competitive in the free-market. As it stands, most grow operations will likely crash and burn. The black-market will shift into a grey-market, and will in turn draw more criminal activities to the state of North Dakota. The only way of preventing this or even fight against it, would be allowing grow operations to create high quality product, at a large enough quantity, that it'll out pace the current domestic black-market for marijuana. The average street cost of marijuana in the state of North Dakota is roughly \$10 ~ \$15 USD/per gram. If the legal markets within North Dakota cannot dip into or below street value, it's likely we'll see a collapse of financial incentives to even start up grow operations and dispensary locations.

With these things in mind, I would like to ask that we see new amendments to HB 1420, which will see it become less restrictive, and more open for the individual consumer.

With best regards,

Joseph M. Dura