

Hello,

My name is Jesce Horton, Chairman of the Minority Cannabis Business Association and local business owner. I'd like to submit this testimony on behalf of the MCBA, the first non profit focused on ensuring that communities targeted by the war on drugs can benefit from cannabis prohibition.

"A lack of sensible social consumption laws directly contradicts the intent of cannabis legalization by restricting legal access to safe, regulated cannabis products and medicine.

This hurts local businesses, tax incomes and most importantly, many of the citizens that voted for each of you. Ironically, and unfortunately, the citizens that are hurt most are the very people that were systematically targeted through cannabis prohibition.

People of lower economic status, which includes many people of color in Oregon, have housing restraints that force them to risk losing their homes, children and even their freedom by consuming legal cannabis.

I'd like to reiterate, these people can lose their homes, children and freedom by consuming legal cannabis. These are people who are renting homes and are provided housing benefits through government funding, like Section 8.

In Oregon, a state with some of the most lenient cannabis laws and lowest numbers of black people, still arrests blacks for cannabis crimes at a rate of 3X the amount of whites (ACLU 2010, Oregon State) Many of these arrests come from citizens consuming cannabis in their cars, parks and parking lots in order to prevent losing the roof over their families' head.

Asking citizens to figure this out on their own and risk their livelihood and/or their freedom, while supporting a thriving business and benefiting from tax funds would be an absolute shame.

I like to call myself an Oregonian, I've been here for 5 years, and from what I've learned from Oregonian values is that we DO NOT leave out those most in need in favor of supporting business and industry."

Best,

Jesce Horton