

To whom it may concern,

Hi, my name is Zachary Rego. I am a lifelong Rhode Island resident, and have been working full time for a licensed cultivator since 2017. Please consider this my written testimony in support of House Bill 6370.

I believe that House Bill 6370 proposes a logical and practical plan to bring adult use marijuana to Rhode Island. I strongly prefer this bill over other bills related to adult use. House Bill 6370 is seemingly the only bill that acknowledges the fact that Rhode Island already has most of the infrastructure in place needed for successfully implementing adult use in the state. We have enough cultivation and we have proper regulation. The only missing puzzle piece is retail. Adding an appropriate number of adult use retail stores throughout the state will complete the puzzle and set our state up for success.

Rhode Island has adequate cultivation output to supply the medicinal market as well as the anticipated recreational market with ease. There are over 65 licensed and operational cultivation facilities in the state, the majority of which are not yet operating at full capacity and have room to dramatically increase their output as soon as the need arises.

The Office of Cannabis Regulation and Department of Business Regulation have successfully overseen the medical marijuana program in this state since its inception. They have constructed the current regulatory framework with adult use marijuana in mind. I believe that allowing the OCR/DBR to be the regulatory body for adult use will be a frictionless process.

Again, the only missing component is retail. I believe that House Bill 6370 properly addresses this need. If passed, it will lay the groundwork for a successful adult use marijuana industry in Rhode Island.

I would like to thank Representative Slater and all the sponsors for writing an excellent adult use marijuana bill.

Sincerely,

Zachary Rego