

Testimony in SUPPORT of H5829

House Committee on Corporations Meeting on April 8, 2025

Dear Members,

I am writing to you today to express my support of H5829 which would amend the cannabis act relating to applications for licensure, the social equity assistance program and the application of cannabis tax revenue.

I believe taxes collected from cannabis use should be reserved for spending on social programs that will educate and uplift our most at risk communities, including the individuals and families that have been incarcerated for marijuana related “crimes”. We have a great need for funding for a plethora of social issues, including but not limited to the mental health crisis, our healthcare crisis, treatment programs for our elderly, educational programs for our youth, job/career/skills training for adults and any other services that will provide opportunities for education advancement and economic opportunities for the people and communities impacted by the war on drugs.

Please consider designating the taxes collected from cannabis sales to social services instead of depositing all of it into the general fund.

If these funds are used to enrich communities we will see brighter futures for our youth, more engagement in our community, a lessened need for police intervention and an overall improvement in the quality of life for people that have been targets of discrimination and over policing. Allocating these funds will provide millions of dollars every year to help support our citizens and create a brighter future for us all.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jones

Resident of Providence and registered voter