

I would like to express my full support for the Marijuana bill now being proposed, Senate Bill SB 19-106, the Commonwealth Marijuana Regulation Act.

As a recreational drug, Marijuana is not addictive. It is far less toxic than any legal substance such as alcohol and is much safer and more effective than many prescription drugs used today.

As we face a huge methamphetamine problem on this island it is especially notable that in states where recreational and even medicinal marijuana has been legalized there has been a notable drop in other illicit drug use and an otherwise unexplainable drop in opiate overdoses.

It is hypocritical at best to keep Marijuana as a schedule I substance. We use medicinal marijuana now in a pill form. It is called Dronabinol and we use it for cancer patients and others that are unable to eat. As long as it is packaged and sold by a pharmaceutical company it is a Schedule III medicine, same as Xanax on numerous addictive substances that are not as effective. It also is prohibitively expensive. Just the co-pay alone is over \$100.

The costs of prosecuting and jailing and ruining the lives of someone who uses this harmless substance just does not make sense in the light of day.

I am not only for the medicinal use of marijuana but I also fully support full legalization and taxation and control of the marijuana industry. It will increase tourism, decrease our jail overcrowding, free up law enforcement for other much more important things but will also let competent adults decide whether or not to socially use a natural substance instead of drinking alcohol or using ICE or any other harmful substances.

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