

To whom it concerns.

I am male, 58 years old, I have been before a court twice in my life. Once for a seat belt infraction, and once for having point five of a gram of "illegal substance".

I source cannabis to help with my mental health issues, PTSD depression & anxiety. I've been doing this since I was 16 years old.

When I was 21 years old police arrested me with the point five of a gram of "illegal substance" that I mentioned above. The outcome, I had a \$200 fine to pay, & a record. The issue with the record is that it does not clarify what the "illegal substance" is. So that whenever I've had job interviews since then, there has always been this issue of the half gram joint (cannabis cigarette) that I had in my pocket; that people think it's worse than it is, some have worried, bringing it up at interview, that I was using harder drugs because of the amount concerned (.5g) that that amount is indicative of smaller dose drugs like cocaine and the like... for half a joint of cannabis (and prohibition) I have had no end of issue to deal with in this regard (seeking employment).

Now I am 58 years old, disabled medicated with pain killers & anti depressants. I'd like to reduce my need for opioid pain management replacing it, as much as I can, with cannabis.

I find cannabis helps me a great deal with pain management, cannabis also helps me with my PTSD & depression. I'd like to replace my anti depressants with cannabis too as I find it helps me a lot more than the prescribed medication.

I'd like to buy cannabis legally as people do in other parts of the world, but as yet I can not afford it through legal channels, let alone find a stable source of cannabis. Which is a big issue for pain & mental health management, stable, reliable medication. I know I could have stable, reliable cannabis if allowed to grow it for myself.

Additionally, I was a lifetime smoker of tobacco, from age 9 till age 47. I gave up smoking tobacco by using cannabis. I'm over ten years free of nicotine thanks in large part to my use of cannabis.

Thank you for reading my submission.