

Nicholas Reinecker

HB2596

Neutral

01/29/24

House Health and Human Services

Chair: Rep. Brenda Landwehr

The year was 2015 and HB2275 was that year's CSA (Controlled Substances Act) update bill where one of the changes was a spelling change from using an h as in federal reference to a j, from marihuana to marijuana. It was my first CSA bill and since then I have testified in many committees regarding the de-scheduling and true decriminalizing of cannabis from Agriculture, to Public Health and Welfare and of course Corrections and Juvenile Justice, and Judiciary. In that time, I have watched the policy trajectory, historically constitutional or not, move to a harm reduction and trauma informed care modality. This policy trajectory, if continued, must be met with the elimination of blurred lines between public health and safety i.e. the carceral criminal justice arena

My solution would be to take all naturally occurring substances off the CSA and eliminate criminal penalties thereof, to reflect that this is not evil doing that needs to be restrained by government. This action would require us to exert our 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment right as a sovereign state. Coupled with our current treatment systems in place we can facilitate those needing treatment to use it without fear of criminalization. I would then make any violation of synthetic substance possession a felony with an automatic 30-day 1<sup>st</sup> time sentence and a 6-month automatic 2<sup>nd</sup> time sentence.

Minimally, cannabis, whether defined as hemp, marijuana, marihuana or whatever other slang name used should be de-scheduled, criminal penalties eliminated and natural and fundamental rights defended.