

Greetings Co-Chair Fox and Coleman, the whole committee.

Thank you for hearing me speak today. My name is Steven Purdy a resident of district 149 under Rep. Livvy Floren and Sen. Scott Frantz. I am a member of The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws or NORML.

Today we stand here to discuss how our state has changed its opinion about the war on drugs, and Cannabis's effect on public safety.

This has become a mission for me now over the last 5 years. After long research and observation of the affects of cannabis on different people and un-biased reports from outside the reach of the DEA/FDA I decided it was worth experimenting with because it seemed clear that it was more beneficial then detrimental. There is no system in America beyond the reach of the DEA for testing your mind and body first, so I had to take a Risk. I was glad I did!

I found two profound things immediately after becoming high, my head did not become clouded like alcohol and second I felt relaxation come over me. This has remained consistent for me since 2005.

The second most apparent thing about it was that I was quote unquote sober about an hour later with no hangover or crash effect. Life simply returned to normal. There was no itch for the next hit, no change in my personality other than I was in more of a good mood, like having a really good day and you want to tell people about it.

My life was so usual that my family didn't even know I smoked until I was interviewed in the Newspaper about it. This proved one thing, that cannabis does not ruin families. However the war on drugs has. My family was more upset that I had done something illegal than harmed someone.

I also have a 3.56 GPA and I have made the Dean's list at NCC this semester, higher grades than I ever had previously, proof that Cannabis doesn't inhibit mental performance.

My situation is the rule, not the exception. To my knowledge I am not special at all, which is why my reaction is like most people I've ever known. It is important that science is allowed to study independent reports on Cannabis and know where the small threats lie for people who may have them. Not every drinker is an alcoholic, and I am sure that after session today some of you will seek a cold one to unwind.

I close my testimony with this consideration for those who feel Cannabis consumption is a sin...

Mark 7:15-16 states Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'¹

Thank you