

According to the ALCU, "Marijuana use is roughly equal among Blacks and whites, yet Blacks are 3.73 times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession." The "War on Marijuana" has done nothing but destroy black families who were seeking to increase their economic mobility the best way they knew how. Marian Wright Edelman once said "you can't be what you can't see." For so many black children in underserved communities the buying and selling on marijuana is the most prevalent means of producing an income that they have witnessed in their community. Without perspective and empathy, police raided these communities, "one bust every 37 seconds and hundreds of thousands ensnared in the criminal justice system," the ACLU reports between 2001 and 2010 with very little to show for it, marijuana availability and use is still widespread. Now, is the time to reinvest in the neighborhoods that were effected by useless marijuana regulation and SB 1138 will ensure that happens and thus why I support it as a leader in the Black community. The allocation of the tax revenue from cannabis into the Community Development Corporation Trust Fund will help these impoverished communities rebuild, getting us a step closer to equity. We cannot let the legalization of cannabis become another thing that the privileged benefits from after so many black and brown people in urban centers have been punished, we must create an equitable marketplace where all can thrive. However, in order to obtain equity we must first balance the scales and SB 1138 is a step in the right direction, all though there is still much work to be done.