

Chair Bynum and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to support House Bill 3112, the Cannabis Equity Act, to help bring more justice to our criminal justice system and take a step in the right direction towards repairing the harm done to communities of color in the name of the Drug War. Speaking for myself, as chief petitioner of the Measure 91 cannabis legalization law and as one of the chief petitioners of the Measure 110 decriminalization and treatment initiative, I find HB 3112 to be on the same right side of history in our ongoing struggle against drug policies that have racist origins and consequences. Personally, I became a criminal justice reform advocate because I saw firsthand my Black friends treated more harshly than my white friends for cannabis offenses in college and about twenty years later, the evidence demonstrates that reforms like the Cannabis Equity PAC are needed.

As the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has reported, our state's drug laws disproportionately harm communities of color. These arrests and convictions have harmful collateral consequences that have unnecessarily ruined too many lives as criminal records for nonviolent offenses have blocked educational, employment, and housing opportunities for too many for far too long.

Most importantly, HB 3112 allows for the automatic expungement of all eligible cannabis crimes. Expunging old cannabis offenses, especially after the state legalized the substance and now generates more than \$100 million in tax revenue annually from a billion dollar industry, shouldn't depend upon your ability to pay fees or navigate bureaucratic obstacles.

Furthermore, investment of much-needed resources into programs that rebuild wealth for the Black and brown communities decimated by the Drug War is a worthy use of cannabis tax revenue. These investments in education, home ownership, business development, and job training, will benefit all Oregonians.

Racial justice is one of the biggest issues facing our nation. Oregon should do right by our own citizens and help lead the way by passing House Bill 3112.

Thank you.