

Testimony of Jacob Fisher
Before the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee
September 21, 2021

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Jacob Fisher and I am a medical cannabis patient here in Pennsylvania. I would like to thank Chairs Langerholc and Sabatina for this opportunity to address the committee.

I am an autistic 19 year old with 2 marijuana related duis. These charges have subsequently ruined my life. Living with my autism was near unbearable until I found cannabis. Once I found this wonderful plant, my life changed. I was able to live comfortably with my autism and my anxiety was significantly lower.

This was until my arrests of course.

While I have come to terms and accepted what I did was wrong, I never smoked while driving, and was only found to have marijuana in my bloodstream. My experience with law enforcement was awful and still brings me to tears. I was so scared and they were so rough with me. I still have nightmares and bouts of panic during the day. Months after my arrests, I got to court and my license was suspended for over 2 years, along with 2 years of intoxalock, and 100 hours community service. The loss of my license pretty much barred me from making money, going to school, and really progressing in anyway.

My charges helped me grow up a lot and for that i'm thankful, but deep down I know my penalties weren't necessarily just. I have to pay quite a bit of money to keep a breathalyzer in my car for 2 years that doesn't even check for cannabis intoxication. Another shocking part of my case is the short duration I had my license prior to my crimes and how easily I got it back. I had been without my license 4x longer than I had been driving and had basically forgotten how to drive, but Pennsylvania didn't care about that fact either. So essentially after losing thousands of dollars in court and coming to a few character developing conclusions with my parents guiding me, I'm left with a breathalyzer for alcohol, I'm a less skilled driver, and I'm still a cannabis patient with marijuana in his bloodstream.

It's sad that Pennsylvania doesn't genuinely care about driver/passenger/pedestrian safety, and that they only care about monetary gain. Thanks for your time.