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Rep. Sargent Introduces Bill to Fully Legalize Marijuana

(MADISON) Today, Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) introduced LRB 3671, which would legalize marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes in Wisconsin.

"After researching this issue extensively, I believe that this bill will benefit Wisconsin and its citizens in many ways, including: addressing racial disparities in arrests, providing medical benefits, time and cost savings to law enforcement, and additional revenue for the state," Rep. Sargent stated.

According to the most recent statistics, Wisconsin has the 5th highest racial disparity in marijuana arrests in the country and African Americans are four times more likely to be arrested as Caucasians despite similar usage rates. Each of these arrests, most of which are for simple possession, cost the taxpayer's more than \$425. There are also economic benefits to legalization. The Colorado state government projects, due to their recent full legalization, annual revenue of \$10 billion by 2018, and private companies who are involved in the fabrication of the equipment needed to grow marijuana are creating jobs.

"The facts clearly show that legalization is right for Wisconsin and that the most dangerous thing about marijuana is that it's illegal."

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