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Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

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January 25, 2019

The Honorable John Fetterman
Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania
200 Capitol Building
Via Hand Delivery

Dear Lieutenant Governor Fetterman,

The news of your listening tour of all 67 counties to hear from Pennsylvania's citizens on the proposal to legalize adult use of marijuana was a welcome breath of fresh air in this critical public policy debate. I'm writing to invite you to the Eighth Senatorial District, comprising Southwest Philadelphia, parts of West and South Philadelphia, as well as parts of Delaware County, on this tour to hear from my constituents on this subject. The citizens of my district are a cross-section of Pennsylvania's political, economic, educational, and ethnic composition and could provide a diverse array of opinions useful to your decision-making.

It is clear that the War on Drugs, while still being prosecuted against low-income people of color in our cities, has failed to accomplish its objective of a drug-free America and may have actually exacerbated the issue. It is also apparent that attitudes toward marijuana, specifically, have shifted toward supporting responsible adult use among much of the population. With our neighboring states considering legalization, it is reasonable that Pennsylvania would do the same. Nonetheless, valid concerns remain regarding public intoxication, workplace rules, equitable inclusion of people of color and formerly incarcerated individuals, and restorative justice for those victimized by overzealous and unfair prosecution of the past.

I welcome the continued dialogue among our state and local policymakers with the citizens of Pennsylvania on this important issue and thank you for taking it on. If you are inclined to accept this invitation, my staff is ready to coordinate that effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony H. Williams". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District