

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** Brian Thomas <bthom37@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 12:02 PM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** For the marijuana working discussion

Hello, my name is Brian Thomas, and I'm here on behalf of the Lawrence chapter of Democratic Socialists of America. Currently, with the maximum fine being \$1000, a person making minimum wage would have to work 137 hours to pay off the fine, before having to pay for the drug abuse counseling, missed work, and all the other attendant costs. Even at the \$200 fine level, a person making minimum wage would have to work 28 hours just to pay off the fine, not including the counseling, missed work, etc.

We are in favor of the initiative to lower marijuana possession penalties, as part of our overall goal of eliminating the carceral state. Marijuana possession charges disproportionately impact poorer citizens and people of color in our community. Lowering penalties will reduce the economic burden on our fellow Lawrence residents and reduce the burden on the court system. In addition, we would like for the LPD to be directed to make marijuana possession enforcement the lowest possible priority. Thank you'