

February, 28, 2020

**Favorable Supportable With Amendments – HB 1449
Medical Cannabis Reauthorization Act**

Good morning Madam Chair and Distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Bershan Shaw and I'm the CEO and Founder of Roundtable Wellness. I applied for a license to grow and process in the state of Maryland during the submission round in 2019. I must say I really am shocked and taken aback that my company Roundtable Wellness was not awarded a license and an opportunity to participate.

I am in support of the Bill Number HB and the amendments and I urge you to support it as well. I am very passionate about this bill because I am a stage 4 breast cancer survivor given three months to live and cannabis saved my life. Cancer was all over my body and because of this plant, I'm alive. Unfortunately, my mother didn't make it. She died of stage 4 breast cancer.

Our team specifically was focused on Research and development in the strains and how they can help the mind, body, soul and cells. We are an entire African American and Women owned Veterans team who checked off every box on the application to win and we were and are well capitalized. We did exactly what the application stated in order to win the license. Majority of the team had to be African American living in the EDA zip code. Majority of the team had to have investors coming from Latin or African American background. We were 99 percent funded by African Americans and majority of our team lived in the disadvantaged zip codes. We had all African American scientists, doctors, researchers and more and we were well funded. I would like to know why didn't we win a license.

We were very strong as our application was written by the top writers and we had the top doctors on our team. I feel that the application scoring and the people who graded the applications had an unfair and biased eye. I thank you for hearing my story from Roundtable Wellness

Kind regards,

Bershan Shaw
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