
CANNABIS PATIENT ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2020

Rita Montoya
Executive Director
Cannabis Patient Advocacy Association
P.O. Box 5658
Takoma Park, MD 20913

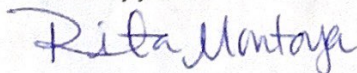
RE: HB1449

Maryland medical cannabis patients, while grateful for the Maryland Medical Cannabis market, appear unsatisfied with the quality and lack of affordability of their medicine. Ninety-one thousand, four hundred and twenty-five (91,425) Marylanders use medical cannabis to alleviate medical conditions with relief ranging from mild to life-saving for patients ranging from toddlers just starting their life to those near the end of their life. Maryland medical cannabis patients' medical care suffers from lack of affordability; poor quality cannabis flower which naturally affects the quality of infused or processed products as well the quantity; inconsistent product offerings and prices; and a lack of standardized product testing. The State of Maryland shoulders the burden in the likes of increased medical costs such as hospital visits and pharmaceutical medications as well as increases in opiate use, addiction and death.

While acknowledging that the current Maryland Medical cannabis market is ripe for review and resolution and encouraging this Committee to keep patients at the forefront of policy decisions in this area, the Cannabis Patient Advocacy Association submits that it is now time to think outside of the box for business solutions to patient problems. Increased marketplace competition is one out-of-the-box option to ameliorate patient challenges. Providing an open market for medical cannabis licenses may invigorate the market, moving it back toward the center: the patient.

The Cannabis Patient Advocacy Association requests a Favorable report.

Sincerely yours,



Rita Montoya

Executive Director, Cannabis Patient Advocacy Association