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The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Clippinger:

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Trade Association, (CANMD) would like to express its support of HB 73. ***It is our membership's belief that medical cannabis patients should not be forced to relinquish their Second Amendment right, for using reasonable and safe medical treatment.***

Under current law, gun owners must choose between keeping their firearms and participating in the legal medical cannabis market. We believe this dilemma is at best unnecessary and at worst discriminatory against the disabled and infirm.

Qualifying medical cannabis patients should not be penalized nor treated differently than healthy, non-patients. We note that this is not a binary issue. The legislature's task is simple: ensure equal treatment of all residents.

Our members are cognizant that Second Amendment issues are sensitive by nature. However, it is our position that this is more accurately described as a necessary course of action to preserve the rights of the disabled. HB 73 will not create new rights to gun ownership. It simply preserves patients' rights to the full measure of constitutional protection.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget Hill-Zayat Esq.  
Executive Director of CANMD