



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION

House Bill 232—Maryland Agricultural Commission-Hemp Industry Member **SUPPORT**

House Environment and Transportation Committee
January 15, 2021

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interests of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

The cannabis and hemp industries are important, growing agricultural industries in Maryland and across the country. Notwithstanding the many uses of hemp, it, like the cannabis industry, promises to be an enormous job creator. In the United States, the cannabis industry employs more than 211,000 full time workers. Job openings in the hemp industry are expected to exceed cannabis, as hemp is even more broadly available and currently legal to grow in 41 states. MDMDA strongly supports all efforts to recognize the hemp and cannabis industries as an important part of the agricultural landscape in Maryland.

For this reason, the MDMDA supports House Bill 232. Thank you to Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo for introducing this legislation and for his long-term support of this industry. We urge a favorable vote on House Bill 232.