



## TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION

Senate Bill 143—Criminal Law-Marijuana-Possession and Possession with Intent  
to Distribute  
**SUPPORT**  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
January 20, 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 MDMDA strongly supports Senate Bill 143, which would increase the amount of marijuana decriminalized in Maryland from ten grams to one ounce. As proposed in Senate Bill 143, possession of between 10 grams and one ounce or less of marijuana would be punishable by a civil fine of \$100 rather than a criminal penalty and potential jail time. Measures like this one are important as they further reduce the number of arrests and criminal charges for simple marijuana possession. As the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee is well aware, these arrests disproportionately impact people of color in Maryland and across the country. Too, this discussion and policy decision is incredibly important and timely as the state continues its discussions about moving towards an adult use market.

While we join with others in supporting going above even the proposed one ounce limit, we understand and appreciate the value and benefit in movement in the right direction. For these reasons, the MDMDA urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 143.