

Vireo

Finance Committee
Chair Senator Melony Griffith
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 8th, 2023

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE,

I write on behalf of MaryMed, LLC and Vireo of Charm City, LLC (together “Vireo”) — both of which are current medical cannabis licensees in Maryland doing business under the trade name “Green Goods” — to voice my support of Senate Bill 0587. We support the requirement of certain health care facilities to allow a qualifying patient with a certain written certification to consume medical cannabis within the health care facility.

As a physician with a background in neuropsychiatric research, and over four years working with cannabis patients across the country as an employee of the physician-founded Maryland medical cannabis company Vireo Health of MD, I applaud this bill.

National support for allowing medical cannabis is strong: 76% of doctors, 93% of Americans, and 83% of veterans support its legal medical use. Regardless of our personal opinions, our friends and families, patients and peers are already making decisions about cannabis. According to the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission’s 2023 Survey, nearly 10% of Marylanders are utilizing cannabis, 30% of which report using cannabis for medical reasons. Last year over 162,000 Marylanders registered for their medical cannabis card for medical conditions that often require admission to a health care facility. It is not acceptable that upon admission they no longer have access to the medicine which they have been utilizing to treat conditions ranging from anxiety to chronic pain to terminal cancer.

Additionally, the same 2023 survey reported that 12% of medical cannabis patients reported that they utilized their plant medicine to reduce, replace, or stop the use of opioids- a pharmaceutical readily available in health care facilities that according to the CDC was responsible for 75% of the nearly 92,000 drug overdose deaths in 2020. Cannabis was responsible for 0%.

We encourage you to pass this bill to ensure that the hundreds of thousands of Marylanders already utilizing cannabis to treat their acute and chronic conditions have continued access to their medicine in health care facilities across the state.

Sincerely,

Paloma Lehfeltd, M.D., M.A.
Senior Director of Clinical Science
MaryMed, LLC & Vireo of Charm City, LLC

