

Hello!

My name is Ashley, the founder of Cannabis Nursing School and Masters Prepared Registered Nurse.

Thank you for creating the space to share my perspectives related to cannabis medicine, specifically, being inclusive of pediatric patients and the most vulnerable patients who cannot advocate on their own behalf. An example being dialysis patients who also have an opportunity to increase their quality of life by leveraging cannabis medicine and is most likely nearing the end of life

I am for proposed bill HB 1135 & SB587

Here are a few to consider:

- Cannabis is Medicine- We all have an endocannabinoid system. We also make natural cannabinoids that mimic THC
- Maryland has had a Medical Program since December 2017 and with the Rec program, there is a worry that cannabis will lose its medical focus by focusing on profits, by marketing only high THC products along with limited selections for patients who are in need. This bill will enforce its medical components for patients inside and outside of the hospital.
- Continuity of Care & Equal access to medical care- Patients who consume generally will avoid places that do not accept their consumption especially for medical purposes due to potential exacerbation of symptoms. As we have already acknowledged cannabis is medicine and they should be able to consume in a location that is specifically intended to prioritize wellness. Patients who do not feel accepted will likely avoid access to medical care thus decreasing their ability to achieve optimal health. Then we have to consider long term impact r/t limitations in accessing medical care. Example black and brown communities who distrust the medical system and avoided medical treatment during a global pandemic was catastrophic.
- Lastly, I remember an experience where a spinal cord patient was escorted off the premises due to cannabis tincture in his possession. He refused the Marinol which is a FDA approved synthetic cannabinoid. He was a black man, positive for HIV, and recently suffered a traumatic injury in need of rehabilitation but deemed to be a “difficult patient” His rehabilitation was cut short due to his preference for natural cannabinoids.

In conclusion because of these reasons and the reasons I am sure others will cover, I am for proposed bill HB 1135 & SB587

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Again name is Ashley Wynn-Grimes founder of the Cannabis Nursing School.