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House Bill 1135 Health Care Facilities – Use of Medical Cannabis

Position: Favorable

Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chairwoman Cullison and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Warren Lemley, I'm President of Peake ReLeaf, an independently Maryland owned and operated medical cannabis dispensary in Rockville and I strongly support House Bill 1135.

Maryland is well known for its illustrious and state of the art Healthcare facilities. We are home to NIH, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland University and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to name a few. When patients are receiving care at any of the facilities listed above or the many other healthcare, hospice, hospitals, Universities and wellness centers they should be improving their quality of life not forced to remove a medication from their Doctor's wellness plan just so they can receive the specialized care they need.

This is why HB 1135 is so important. It is pivotal to allowing patients to continue their regimen which has improved their quality of life and allowed them to pursue a more normal life for a wide

variety of conditions and illnesses. Not allowing patients to receive the care they have become accustomed to is unthinkable and this is why we must pass this legislation.

Many medical cannabis patients move on from the pharmaceutical medications that they previously took in the hopes of receiving better results utilizing medical cannabis. We shouldn't force patients to utilize other forms of medication because they need to receive care from one of Maryland's healthcare facilities. This can disrupt a patient's care and new forms of medications can result in unexpected results and side effects that could have been avoided by allowing them to continue to utilize the medical cannabis that they have become accustomed to.

Most importantly, medical cannabis has been found uniquely capable of assisting in the care of those with PTSD, nerve pain and numerous forms of cancer who find comfort in its ability to relieve pain, discomfort and increase appetite which can be a life saving measure for those receiving chemotherapy and radiation. We should not take this away from patients who have already been effectively utilizing medical cannabis to improve their quality of life.

There are also patients in need of hospice. The goal of hospice is to create as much comfort as possible. If a patient has been receiving comfort from medical cannabis, then they should be allowed to continue utilizing the medication that provides them comfort. For this and the many reasons I listed above, I respectfully encourage a favorable report on HB 1135.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Lemley

President, Peake ReLeaf