



Contact:

Luke Jones, Director of Legislative Affairs
Maryland NORML
Luke.MDNORML@gmail.com

750 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(202) 285-3199

Submitted to:

Maryland House of Delegates, Health and Government Operations Committee
Annapolis, MD – March 3, 2023

Testimony from the Maryland State Chapter of the
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

Support: HB1135 (Health Care Facilities – Use of Medical Cannabis)

Maryland NORML has no paid staff – we are entirely energized by a core group of citizen volunteers and more than 5,000 other Marylanders committed to ending marijuana prohibition and establishing a regulated cannabis commercial market for adults who choose to use marijuana responsibly. I do not now and never have had any stake or investment of any kind in any cannabis enterprise, nor does anyone in my family, and I have never received any fee or remuneration for consulting with any cannabis enterprise. As an organization, we have worked to reform state and federal marijuana laws for more than 50 years.

I write in SUPPORT of HB1135 which seek to allow for the use of medical cannabis by qualified patients on the grounds of certain healthcare facilities in the state of Maryland.

If passed, these bills would extend the option for treatment via medical cannabis to many patients who are currently receiving treatment at certain healthcare facilities, providing exemptions to restrictions on the use of schedule I controlled substances under certain circumstances.

The current law prevents thousands of qualified patients from obtaining the treatment they need on the grounds of Maryland’s health care facilities.

This is harmful to those with chronic conditions or who cannot use addictive opioid treatment options, and are qualifying patients under Maryland’s medical cannabis program.

Qualifying patients are allowed to access medical cannabis treatment outside of healthcare facilities – they must be allowed to access medical cannabis at healthcare facilities with medical professionals trained on how to properly administer the medicine.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to support House Bill 1135.

//s//

M. Luke Jones, Maryland NORML