



## **House Bill 253 – Cannabis Reform – Alterations**

### **Letter of Information**

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to provide information and express concerns on behalf of our cannabis clients regarding House Bill 253, which aims to reform and expand opportunities within the cannabis industry in Maryland.

First, we appreciate the comprehensive approach taken by the Chair Wilson and the committee to address various aspects of the cannabis industry. The proposed alterations to best practices, duties of entities, and authorization for processors indicate a positive intent to foster growth and development.

However, we would like to bring to your attention the concerns within the industry regarding the proposed restrictions on outdoor advertising as outlined in the bill. While we acknowledge the need for responsible regulations, there is apprehension about the potential impact of stringent advertising limitations on the industry's ability to exercise its rights to free speech and compete fairly with other legal businesses.

The cannabis industry is still in its early stages, and many entrepreneurs are working diligently to establish compliant businesses. We respectfully request the committee to consider the implications of imposing additional advertising burdens on an emerging industry. Such restrictions may hinder the industry's ability to reach its target audience and participate in promotional activities essential for growth.

We sincerely hope that the committee will carefully weigh these concerns and consider a balanced approach that ensures responsible advertising practices without unduly impeding the industry's development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to further discussions and collaboration on this important issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact Darrell Carrington, Founding Board Member and former Executive Director of the Maryland Cannabis Industry Association (MDCIA), at 732-763-7398 or [darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net).