

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION (MDDA)

House Bill 296—Firearms-Right to Purchase, Own, Possess and Carry **SUPPORT**

House Judiciary Committee March 6, 2024

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a healthy, professional and secure cannabis industry in the State. MDDA works on the State and local level to advance the interests of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Cannabis Industry.

House Bill 296 specifies that a person may not be denied the right to purchase, own, possess, or carry a firearm simply because he or she is a qualifying patient with legal access to medical cannabis in Maryland. The MDDA strongly believes that Marylanders should not have to choose between owning a legal firearm and accessing medication.

For this simple and straightforward reason, we urge the House Judiciary Committee to vote favorably on House Bill 296.