

Michael Jones II

Largo, MD (Prince George's County)

Written Testimony on behalf of From Ten Eleven, LLC

Against HB0132

Limiting application submissions for on-site consumption licenses to social equity applicants under certain circumstances; authorizing a political subdivision to establish hours of operation for on-site consumption establishments

Delegate C. T. Wilson and Delegate Brian M. Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. I oppose HB0132.

As it stands the bill is too broad in scope on who falls under a social equity applicant and what the "certain circumstances" are to even obtain the license.

Additionally, it is too restrictive to the license holder as well as the consumer in terms of consumption. If we can allow hookah and cigar lounges without issue, cannabis should be allowed the same opportunities. We voted to legalize cannabis in this state, yet these bills seem to still treat it as an illegal substance that should be hidden away.

As a Black American who has seen my community fall victim to laws that penalized us with heavy sentencing, I am very sensitive to any legislation that does not seek to allow us the space to operate in full as legitimate businesses. Having personally been to cannabis events in the past, they are safe, uplifting, and professionally done.

I ask that this bill be tabled and re-introduced with more inclusive language. I once again thank the committee for their time and consideration in this matter.