



February 14, 2025

Honorable Chair C.T. Wilson  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Low House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 01201

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

***Testimony in Support of House Bill 012***

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and distinguished members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Office of Social Equity respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 012 – *Cannabis - Sale and Distribution - Tetrahydrocannabinol Offenses*.

The Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission plays a vital role in safeguarding the integrity of Maryland’s adult-use cannabis market. House Bill 012 strengthens the Commission's ability to enforce regulations against unlicensed and unregulated cannabis activity, ensuring that current operators and social equity licensees in the process of building their businesses are not undermined by misleading products that may pose risks to public health and safety.

This bill provides the Alcohol Tobacco and Cannabis Commission officers with expanded enforcement tools, such as the authority to issue citations and confiscate unlawful cannabis products. It also establishes clear standards for product potency, labeling, and advertising, incorporating provisions that align with the Maryland Cannabis Administration’s laws on packaging and labeling. By addressing these issues, the legislation will create a more equitable, transparent, and responsible cannabis marketplace in Maryland.

I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report, as it is a critical step in upholding the integrity of Maryland’s nascent adult use market while protecting consumers and supporting compliant businesses.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (443) 610-1666 or



[audrey.johnson1@maryland.gov](mailto:audrey.johnson1@maryland.gov) or Courtney Davis, Deputy Director at (443) 610-1730 or [courtney.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:courtney.davis@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Audrey Johnson  
Executive Director, Office of Social Equity