



Maryland General Assembly
Senate Finance Committee
January 28, 2025

Cannabis-Sale and Distribution Unfavorable Testimony Against SB0214
Presented by LaWann Stribling, Founder of Cann'A Woman Heal Wellness

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am LaWann Stribling, founder of Cann'A Woman Heal Wellness, a holistic wellness brand committed to ancestral healing, herbal remedies, and community empowerment. I am here to testify against SB0214, which threatens the legal and sustainable use of hemp as an essential herb under the 2018 Federal Farm Bill. This legislation legalized hemp as a federally regulated crop, granting businesses like mine the right to cultivate, utilize, and sell hemp-based products that support health and wellness.

For years, Cann'A Woman Heal has offered holistic solutions rooted in ancestral knowledge and natural healing practices. Hemp is one of the cornerstone herbs in my wellness products because of its proven ability to support physical, emotional, and mental health. SB0214, as proposed, undermines federal protections and poses an existential threat to small businesses like mine in the following ways:

1. Violation of Federal Law

The 2018 Federal Farm Bill explicitly removed hemp from the Controlled Substances Act, defining it as a legal agricultural product with THC levels of 0.3% or less. SB0214 contradicts these protections by imposing unwarranted restrictions on a federally legal crop, effectively punishing businesses that operate within the law.

2. Barriers to Economic Stability

As a small, community-focused business, compliance with unnecessary regulations, additional fees, or restrictive measures will significantly increase operational costs. These barriers are particularly devastating to Black- and women-owned businesses like mine, which are already underrepresented and often underfunded in the wellness industry.

3. Impact on Public Health and Wellness

Hemp-based products provide countless benefits, including stress relief, pain management, and improved sleep. Restricting access to hemp will disproportionately harm individuals seeking natural and affordable alternatives to pharmaceuticals. My customers depend on my products to lead healthier lives, and SB0214 would deprive them of that right.

4. Suppression of Holistic Healing Practices

Cann'A Woman Heal is more than a business—it is a mission to honor ancestral wisdom and empower communities to reclaim their health through nature. Hemp is not merely a product; it is a part of our cultural and holistic approach to wellness. Restricting hemp use diminishes the significance of natural healing traditions and disrupts our ability to educate the public about the benefits of herbal remedies.

Call to Action

I urge this committee to respect the provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and to reject SB0214, which undermines the rights of small businesses, restricts access to vital wellness products, and disproportionately harms marginalized communities. Let us honor the progress we have made in recognizing hemp as a safe, legal, and valuable herb for wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow my submission today. I stand ready to collaborate on solutions that protect consumers, small businesses, and the integrity of holistic healing practices.

Respectfully,
LaWann Stribling
Founder, Cann'A Woman Heal Wellness