



January 28, 2025

Honorable Chair Senator Pamela Beidle
MGA Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 214

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Office of Social Equity respectfully submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 214 – *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. Senate Bill 214 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 or Courtney Davis, Deputy Director at (443) 610-1730 or 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, sweeping underline.

Audrey Johnson
Executive Director, Office of Social Equity