



January 22, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 46 – Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership
FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) in SUPPORT of HB 46 – Public Health – Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council – Membership.

HB 46 is a departmental request from The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to add a seat to the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council (“PHAC”) for the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The MCA believes MVA is a critical voice that should be heard on PHAC and supports this bill.

PHAC is charged with, among other things, administering the Cannabis Public Health Fund. Within the allowable uses of this fund are roadside safety efforts and initiatives, of which the MVA representative, or their designee, would have the expertise that is currently unrepresented on PHAC. MCA and MDOT staff meet regularly to discuss and coordinate efforts on traffic concerns, public education, public service messaging, and general information as it pertains to cannabis use and safety. MCA is excited to further strengthen our partnership and collaboration with our colleagues in the Department.

MVA will provide both a valuable and essential voice to the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, and their addition will help improve the overall health, safety, and education of the Maryland public. For these reasons, the MCA respectfully requests a favorable report. Additionally, HB 46 updates the name of the MCA designee to reflect the agency’s name since the transition from the medical to adult-use program.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (410) 487-8051 or andrew.garrison@maryland.gov, or Selena Rawlley, Senior Policy Analyst, at selena.rawlley@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Garrison", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew C. Garrison
Chief of Policy & Government Affairs, Maryland Cannabis Administration