

# MARYLAND CANNABIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 4, 2026

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The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee  
230-231 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **RE: Letter of Support for HB0622 Cannabis – Licensees – Micro Dispensary Employees and Cannabis Agent Training Programs**

Dear Chair Valderrama and Committee Members:

We, the [Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council](#), established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022 to study the public health impact of adult-use cannabis legalization in Maryland, including making recommendations related to public health campaigns and educational programs, support the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) and recommend a favorable committee report on HB0622.

HB0622 increases the maximum number of individuals eligible for employment within a micro dispensary and alters certain provisions related to minimum training requirements for certain cannabis agents within the Maryland cannabis program. While we take no position on the maximum number of individuals employed within a micro dispensary, we support increasing and diversifying the existing training requirements for cannabis agents (i.e. registered employees of a Maryland cannabis license). This would allow training and workplace

safety measures to better align with the actual licensee types of cannabis agents to best support the public health of Maryland's legal, adult-use consumers, registered medical patients and agents employed within the cannabis industry.

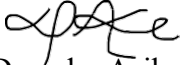
Revising current third-party training requirements for cannabis agents, which focuses exclusively on safe retail dispensing regardless of an agent's working environment or type of license for which they are employed, may be widened to include generalized training on the cannabis plant and offer the opportunity for license-specific training relative to an agent's working conditions and applicable duties and responsibilities. This specialization of training, relative to the working environment or license type, may also increase foundational knowledge relative to approved cannabis cultivation and manufacturing techniques within the Maryland program and enhance reasonable expectations for safe working conditions within these facilities.

According to the [2024 Maryland Medical Cannabis Patient Survey](#) (MMCPS-24), conducted by MCA with approximately 13,000 certified medical cannabis patients, dispensary agents ("budtenders") serve as the primary source of information on product selection, dosing, and use for many consumers. This

reliance on dispensary agents was far greater than reliance on certifying healthcare providers, other health care providers or dispensary clinical directors. We fully support the Maryland Cannabis Administration's initiative and, in a collaborative capacity, are interested in offering input on the public-health components of the educational requirements, should that be useful.

In short, the Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council urges approval of HB0662 and its alteration of training requirements for cannabis agents. We remain available to assist the Committee in any way that may be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asike', written in a cursive style.

Deondra Asike, M.D.

Chair, Maryland Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council