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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
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Testimony from the Maryland State Chapter of the
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

SUPPORT SB0054
(State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners – Grounds for Disciplinary
Action – Restrictions)

Maryland NORML has no paid staff – we are entirely energized by a core group of citizen volunteers and more than 5,000 other Marylanders committed to ending marijuana prohibition and establishing a regulated cannabis commercial market for adults. I have never had any stake or investment of any kind in any cannabis enterprise, nor does anyone in my family, and I have never received any fee or remuneration for consulting with any cannabis enterprise. As an organization, we have worked to reform state and federal marijuana laws for more than 50 years.

We are in strong support of Senate Bill 54, which provides needed clarity and protection for licensed veterinarians in Maryland.

Senate Bill 54 takes a narrow, commonsense approach, affirming that licensed professionals should be able to engage in open, evidence-informed conversations with animal owners without fear of automatic professional sanction. This legislation does not compel any treatment, alter existing standards of care, or interfere with the Board’s authority to address misconduct, negligence, or unlawful activity.

Regulatory frameworks must evolve to protect professional speech and informed decision-making. SB0054 aligns Maryland with these principles while preserving appropriate oversight and public safety.

For these reasons and more, we urge a favorable report on SB0054.

M. Luke Jones, Maryland NORML