

Capitol Connections, LLC
18 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
301-440-5068
marrington@capitolconnections.net

February 19, 2020

Support of HB1317

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1317 which will allow licensed independent medical cannabis dispensaries in Maryland to be eligible for a new license issued from the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission. This license known under the bill as a Dispensary Grow-Processor License, will allow for a more level playing field in the medical cannabis marketplace, because it will allow small local independent dispensaries to grow produce and sell their own product. Currently, many dispensaries cannot get the type or quantities of product they need to best service their patients. Often the small dispensaries are forced to buy quantities of product they don't need in order to obtain the product needed by patients. These type of bundled purchases are costly, but unavoidable if they want to have product at all. Simply put, the large scale growers can pick and choose how much and what specific product they want to sell to you, and there's not much one can do about it if you want to have inventory.

Additionally, HB1317 allows for minority owners to have an opportunity to grow and process. As you well know, African Americans and Women are greatly underrepresented in these sectors. Several of the independent dispensaries are minority owned and the issuance of Dispensary

on will continue to service their own retail market. Further, they will continue to service the non independent dispensaries which currently make up the majority of dispensaries in Maryland. Considering the current state of affairs regarding medical cannabis licensing in Maryland. The passage of HB1317 would be good public policy. Respectfully, I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Michael Arrington

