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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Estates and Trusts

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

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HB1369 - Support

Dear Chairman Pendergrass, Vice-Chairman Pena-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

House Bill 1369 would do two things: 1) require the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) to create a new licensed category of growers, "Boutique Growers" that are relatively small operations and grow, sell and distribute medical cannabis grown without the use of pesticides and, 2) authorize the Commission to adopt regulations around the transfer of health and safety information between the various nodes in the industry network including to the patient. An additional amendment would be required for the level of minority-owned or women-owned participation in to match that currently in statute.

There is a large demand for medical cannabis in Maryland, but an insufficient supply. Part of the reason this problem exists is due to large growers and processors dominating the industry and pushing out smaller businesses. Vertical integration allows the larger growers to sell product through processors dispensers in the chain and the same would be allowed for the Boutique category so smaller dispensaries to grow and sell their own product much like the larger dispensaries do now.

I respectfully request a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".

Terri Hill, M.D.