

**Favorable Support with Amendments**  
**HB 1449 – Medical Cannabis Reauthorization Act**

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee:

We are Mazey Farms, one of three alternate groups that were selected by the medical cannabis commission in 2016 to operate in the event one of the initial licenses failed. (Commission letter attached) All three groups are majority women owned and ours is majority African-American women owned. All three groups scored higher on their cultivation applications than three companies that are currently licensed and operating in the industry.

We support HB 1449 with the proposed amendments from Chairman Barnes to open up the licensing in the Maryland Cannabis industry to include more minority and women owned groups. We are hoping to add the words “2016 alternates and” to the sections of the amendment opening up the licensing for the 2019 applicants. The main purpose of HB 1449 is to bring in more minority and women ownership to the medical cannabis industry in Maryland, while ensuring the applicants selected qualify with a high score. The only way legislation can ensure this is to add the 2016 alternates since those groups are known entities that fit the criteria the legislation is looking for.

If legislation truly wants to make the industry more diverse and correct the issues of the past with corruption and lack of minority and women majority ownership in the program, HB 1449 should be passed with the amendments also including the 2016 alternates. These three groups were identified in 2016 with the qualifications to operate, and all submitted evidence of their majority ownership makeup. Four years later we are still waiting for legislation to implement the obvious solution to address the industry concerns, hopefully this is the year.

Please feel free to call with questions.

Regards,

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