



TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION

In SUPPORT of HB 73– Firearms-Right to Purchase, Possess, and Carry- Medical Cannabis

January 29, 2029

The Maryland Medical Dispensary Association (MDMDA) was established in May, 2017 in order to promote the common interests and goals of the Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Maryland. MDMDA advocates for laws, regulations and public policies that foster a health, professional and secure medical cannabis industry in the State. MDMDA works on the State and local level to advance the interest of licensed dispensaries as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the Medical Cannabis Industry.

In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation establishing the state’s medical cannabis program. As a part of that program, patients and caregivers are able to legally access and use medical cannabis as a treatment for a number of qualifying health conditions. They should not be penalized for choosing this particular health care treatment/medication by being forced to give up their right to own, purchase or possess a firearm. House Bill 73 essentially addresses this issue, thus treating medical cannabis patients and caregivers like every other Marylander who may own a gun *and* take medication to treat an illness or a condition.

For this reason, we urge a favorable vote on House Bill 73.

For more information, please contact Ashlie Bagwell (443.800.4506).