

Hallaway LLC, dba Star Buds
5075 Belair Rd
Baltimore MD 21202

March 2, 2021

To: Senate Finance Committee – State of Maryland

RE: Senate Bill 708 -Cannabis – Legalization & Regulation

Dear Senate Finance Committee and Senator Feldman:

My name is Carissa Cartalemi, I am the Founding Treasurer of the MD Medical Dispensary Association and the Owner/Operator of Star Buds, a licensed medical cannabis dispensary. I am writing to you today to ask you to **support with amendments Senate Bill 708, which legalizes medical cannabis for adult use.**

The tax rate proposed has two problems which will result in high prices to the consumer: a tax rate that starts off too high and a progressive tax rate which assumes pricing will go down. Prices will not go down in our state because of supply limitations from the small number of growers here in Maryland.

Due to current supply constraints and the supply shortage we know is coming with Adult Use, I ask that you provide micro-grow licenses to unaffiliated dispensaries so that we may ensure some of the supply necessary for our customers.

Since the program began growers have not been able to meet the demand from our market. Ensuring a fair, stable tax rate and supply from a micro grow would help keep prices lower for the consumer. Therefore, I ask you today to consider both what is best for my business and the consumer and **vote to amend SB708 to include low tier cultivation licenses for unaffiliated dispensaries immediately and lower the tax rate as well as ensure the tax rate in stable over time (not progressive).**

Thank you for your time on this matter. If you would like to discuss this with me further, I can be reached at carissa@starbuds.us or 914-589-6566.

Sincerely,

Carissa Cartalemi
924 Stubblefield Lane
Baltimore, MD 21202